



BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL

FAQs about Freshman Christian Service

Jesus began his service at home with the Holy Family, and our freshmen begin their journey in the same way. Each first-year student forms an intentional relationship with a member of their immediate family and serves with that individual in a meaningful way for a minimum of 10 hours. Projects range from tutoring a sibling to helping a parent/guardian with a long-neglected home improvement project.

What is Family Service?

Freshmen Year Service is about getting to know a family member while working on your service hours.

Freshmen will select one person within his/her immediate family circle to form an intentional relationship with for a minimum of 10 hours.

Service must be direct, hands on, and one-on-one. It must be something unique and out of the ordinary; merely fulfilling your expected household, son/daughter duties does not count!

Your service must be WITH your family member, not FOR your family member.

What are some examples of Family Service?

Some great examples/ideas of quality family service projects are: cleaning out the garage or basement with a family member, tutoring or teaching a younger sibling a skill, helping out with a big holiday dinner, preparing a special dinner for parents/family, serving at a soup kitchen or some sort of outside service project with a family member.

Things to avoid: projects where there is little to no conversation happening! For example, babysitting, yard work like mowing or leaf blowing, emptying the dishwasher, doing laundry, etc.

What are the timelines? How do I record my hours?

- Turn in the completed 'Freshman Service Agreement Form' (found in the Campus Ministry course in CANVAS) to your religion teacher by the due date.
- Submit your hours through the MobileServe app.
- Submit your theological reflection to your religion teacher by the assigned date in January.

What should I do if I need to make a change in my agreement?

You must complete the Christian Service activity you listed on the agreement form — changing service activities will not be accepted.

In the event you need to change the service activity you are completing, you must first talk to Campus Ministry and then resubmit the approval form.

Should I record service hours that aren't within my family contract?

There are two additional categories in MobileServe that will count toward your total service hours during your entire time at BCHS: "Campus Ministry" and "Other".

"Campus Ministry" hours are service hours gained through participation in the Campus Ministry Team (Peer Ministry, Retreat Leading, and Liturgy Core Team).

"Other" hours include those in service outside or in addition to your year's commitment.

Hours recorded as "Campus Ministry" and "Other" in MobileServe DO NOT count toward your year's requirement. However, they will be recorded on your transcript, and colleges will know that you went above and beyond what is required in terms of serving the community. If you complete 75 hours of total service within one year, you will be eligible for the St. Theresa of Calcutta Distinction. If you complete a set number of extra hours (around 150-200, depending on COVID restrictions, by graduation, you will be eligible for the St. Lawrence Christian Service Honor Cord.

Updated September 2021