



Bernards Township Public Schools
Ridge High School



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Community Service/Service Learning Component
For CP and Honors American History
School Year 2011-2012

It is the goal of any effective Social Studies program to provide a thorough civic education through promotion of active citizenship. Community service is a vehicle through which students can facilitate a positive change in their community. In essence, they are using their social-political participation skills to better the overall community. The most important facet of a community service-learning project is that it fosters in students a lifelong desire to learn and to help those around them.

Objective: Your goal will be to select one community or national organization and work with that organization to impact positive change.

Guidelines for an acceptable organization:

Organizations must be non-profit and must work to promote positive change in the community. The following organizations are *examples* of accepted organizations for community service projects:

Somerset Hills Adult Daycare	Red Cross	Somerset Hills YMCA	“Saturdays in Motion”
VA NJ Healthcare System,	Lyons	Habitat for Humanity	
The Food Bank of Somerset County		BRICK Avon Academy	
The YMCA Appalachian Service Project		New Jersey Audubon Society	

We will accept a variety of activities as long as they meet the following criteria:

1. the activity promotes positive change in the community
2. there is a clear supervisor who can verify a student’s efforts
3. the students are not paid for their efforts

Procedure:

1. You will select one organization and make contact to express your desire to help. Please visit the *Community Service Opportunities* page on the Ridge High School website for an overview of our community service program as well as links to specific community service opportunities and contact information that our students have worked with in the past. You must obtain approval from your teacher, or the Social Studies Supervisor before the start of the year. The approval form can also be found on the Community Service website.
2. You must complete 25 community-based service hours for CP and Honors American History with your selected group and provide written documentation on the organization’s letterhead (signed by a representative of the group). Please note that if you are working with a national group they should have local chapters with which you can make contact.
3. Hours must be completed between May 1, 2011 and April 30, 2012.
4. You must complete the community service reflective assignment, which can be found on the Community Service website, within 30 days upon completion of the hours and then submitted to your American History teacher.
5. The 4th Marking Period grade for students who do not complete the community service hours will be lowered one letter grade. Students may appeal to the Social Studies Supervisor.