

## South Lewis High School Distinguished Community Service Diploma (DCSD)

South Lewis High School offers recognition and a variety of incentives to encourage our students to perform volunteer community service. The volunteer efforts of many of our students culminate on graduation day when they are recognized by receiving a Distinguished Community Service Diploma (DCSD).

In order to receive a Distinguished Community Service Diploma, students must:

1. Perform at least 100 hours of **APPROVED VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY SERVICE** during their high school years.
2. Complete the DCSD forms recording your volunteer experiences. DCSD forms are to be turned in by the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> week of each marking period to the DCSD bin, which is located in the HS Office. DCSD forms not turned in by this date will not be processed for that marking period.
3. At the end of your senior year, submit a Culminating Project which somehow addresses the following two points: 1) an overall summary of your volunteer experience (i.e. what you did) and 2) what you learned and/or what impact you believe you made. In order for your service hours to be counted for the diploma, you need to complete this project. The following is a listing of what you might produce:
  - a. A summary essay (about one full page, handwritten or typed) – see reverse
  - b. An iMovie Video, uploaded to SouthLewTube or burned onto a DVD
  - c. A Tri-Fold or Poster with size 16-18 font, at minimum
  - d. A PowerPoint Presentation, uploaded to SouthLewTube or burned to a CD
  - e. A different project approved by Mrs. McGuire or Mrs. Delles

Please note the following:

- I. All projects must be self-explanatory, which means that any pictures must be accompanied by captions (posters, PowerPoint) or voiceovers (iMovie).
- II. Write YOUR NAME on the project.

Failure to provide any of the above could jeopardize your chances of receiving credit for your work. **Seniors must complete all hours and their culminating projects by the 9<sup>th</sup> week of the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period.**

### Restrictions:

- **Should you have a question about what constitutes community service, see Mrs. McGuire, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Birmingham, or Mrs. Delles BEFORE you begin your hours. These teachers may determine that your placement does not qualify as service hours, so speak with them about anticipated placements.**
- Community service **must** be done for a not-for-profit organization.
- Students **must** serve hours for more than one organization in order to receive the DCSD diploma.
- Community service can be done during the summer (starting in the ninth grade year). All summer hours will be counted in the first marking quarter.

	What does not qualify	What does qualify	Example(s) or Exceptions
1	What would usually be considered normal extracurricular (or co-curricular) activities	Extra curricular activities which have a community service focus; any preparation for a service activity	Normal FFA meetings do not qualify; FFA service activities (such as building doghouses) do qualify
2	Service to family members, friends, or neighbors	Service to neighbors, etc. as directed by a not-for-profit organization	Babysitting one's siblings or raking a neighbor's lawn does not qualify
3	Service for which you were paid or which is related to personal gain	Fundraising for another community service group	Fundraising for a trip which you will take does not qualify
4	Credit for any monetary or physical donations (i.e. number of toys or cans collected)	Credit for TIME you have invested in the community-service project	You may be credited 2 hours of time for the following activities: donating blood, donating hair
5	Service which is "supervised" by peers	Service which is "supervised" by adult advisors or leaders	A parent should not certify hours unless he or she is the club's advisor





