

## What is the Michigan Student Service Award?

Of course volunteering is a great way to get involved, as well as help out those in need, but did you know that you can receive community-wide recognition for volunteering in your area?



The Michigan Student Service Award is a way of honoring those high school students who go above and beyond by giving a significant amount of their time to service and volunteerism in their community. It's never too early to start volunteering!

## Requirements

The Michigan Student Service Award requires:

- 400 hours of community service (See inside for rules regarding these hours.)
- A reflection essay on your experiences.

## Recognition of your Commitment

Recognition will take place at the annual honors award program before you graduate, where you will receive:

- A Medallion of Distinction to wear with your graduation cap and gown
- A Certificate of Distinction for Commitment to Service from the United Way of the EUP Volunteer Center
- Community-wide recognition for you!

## Who Is Eligible?

You are! Now get out there



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## Michigan Student Service Award (MSSA)



## Your Community...



MSSA is a program honoring high school students who give commendable service to benefit Chippewa, Luce & Mackinac Counties

## Volunteering helps you and your community.

Every year teens volunteer 2.4 billion hours, a service worth \$3.4 billion to the U.S. economy. People just like you spend an average of 3.5 hours a week volunteering helping care for animals, as victims in mock disaster scenarios, building houses,

painting murals, and the list goes on. But volunteering isn't just about helping your community, it also has a lot of benefits for you. Volunteering can help you meet new people, explore job opportunities, and increase your opportunities for college scholarships.

### Who sponsors the program?

The program is sponsored by the United Way of the EUP's Volunteer Center in partnership with High Schools throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula. You can register and get started with the volunteer program through your high school. The United Way Volunteer Center will assist you in finding volunteer opportunities and making an official permanent record of your service hours.

## How the award program works...

Over the course of your 4 years in high school, keep track of and document at least 400 hours of non-paid community service. These activities must meet the recognized needs of your community and be done through non-profit organizations, government programs, community groups or schools.

### What can I do?

These types of activities (as well as many others) would qualify as certified volunteer activities:

- **Direct Service:** river and highway clean-up, tutoring, mentoring, or spending time with a nursing home resident
- **Indirect Service:** computer data entry, fundraising, food collection or committee work for a non-profit
- **Civic engagement:** advocacy or community organizing, i.e. beautification, mural painting or community surveys

Any Questions regarding eligibility of volunteer activities should be directed to the United Way Volunteer Center

After any volunteer activities you tally your hours and get signatures from each organization in which you participate. At least once a semester a copy of your tally sheet is submitted to the Volunteer Center and kept for your records.

"No matter how small the service is, it has the power to impact someone's life in a massive way."

-Cory Matkovich

One of the many things I learned in FCCLA is that it was not about winning a gold medal; it was about making a difference in someone's life. It's one of the most significant things I've learned.

-Courtney Spence

"Seeing the impact that I can make on so many people is reward in itself. Knowing that my act of kindness puts a smile on someone's face is priceless to me. Now service is my every-day life."

- Kati Doty

