

Year of Service FAQ

Why are we doing the Year of Service? A volunteer, much like you, came up with the idea: “wouldn’t it be great to celebrate all the great things our Scouts and families do giving back to our communities”? The Year of Service Committee came up with the goal and are excited to track the Scouts/families progress while sharing the great things they are doing to make our communities better with others!

How long does the Year of Service run for? The YoS runs from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024. Yes, the Year of Service has already started!

How many service hours do I need to do? The goal for Twin Valley Council units as-a-whole is to complete 25,000 hours of giving back to our communities which we live in within the YoS year. That breaks down to 25 hours for each scout in our council, or a little over 2 hours per month per scout.

25 hours sounds like a lot! Actually, your units are already doing a great number of service hours in their annual program already: Scouting for Food, caroling at nursing homes, cleaning parks, serving meals at soup kitchens, etc.. Community Service is a natural element of Scouting values through rank advancement and a Good Turn Daily, we are just asking that our units celebrate and share the great things they do to help support our communities!

If my family helps, do their hours count too? YES! Parents, siblings, Scouters service hours all count towards the 25,000 hours!

How do people know that Scouts are doing community service? Let’s show our communities that Scouts do great things! Wear your Troop activity shirt, scouting shirt, or field uniform. Be proud of your Good Turn Daily!

What counts as service hours? Community service is giving back to the community with no reward or payment as a thank you from that organization. Eg., if your unit helps clean up a park after a town festival and the city gives you a check for x amount of \$, it is at that point that cleaning the park is a paid job and not service back to the community.

Our Pack/Troop is adopting our local school; does cleaning up after an event or planting a tree count as service project hours? YES!

Do I have to get approval before doing service hours? As far as the YoS Committee is concerned, we don’t need to give approval, but if your unit leader would like to be aware of your good deeds in advance, they may ask for you to run it by them, especially for rank advancement.

Where can I get ideas for service projects; is there a list? The YoS Committee members are putting together lists for their Neighborhoods and will have a compiled list on the TVC website. You might gain some new ideas in your area from that list. 😊

How do we report hours? The scout will report their hours to the unit; the unit leadership will report total unit service hours for the month at the Neighborhood Meeting to the YoS Committee member. The YoS Committee has also put a link on the TVC website where the unit can log their total hours for the month if they aren’t able to report at the Neighborhood meeting.

Do Eagle Project hours count? ABSOLUTELY, All of them!

Do conservation hours for rank advancement count? Yes!

Does the service project have to be done as a unit, or do individual hours count? Individual community service count! Raking an elderly neighbor's leaves? Shoveling the fire hydrant at the end of the block? Helping at your church? These all count!

Do I get a reward for completing service hours? The personal satisfaction of helping others and doing a good turn is powerful and rewarding in and of itself! But.... If Twin Valley Council units achieve or exceed their goal of 25,000 hours of Community Service, every scout that participated in achieving that goal will receive a special Year of Service patch depicting the Story of the Unknown Scout.

How often do I need to do community service? The Scout Motto is Do a Good Turn Daily. The hours can be done in a few large projects, or as little as a couple of hours a month.

Is it ok if we challenge other units? Yes! Good natured, friendly competition is always welcome, especially if the goal is to help serve our communities!