

Delaware Volunteer Credit

Frequently Asked Questions

How soon can a student begin volunteer service that counts toward the Delaware Volunteer Credit (DVC)?

Students may begin counting volunteer hours served toward the DVC as early as the summer between their 8th and 9th grade year.

Can a student volunteer at more than one agency?

Yes. However it is preferred that the student volunteers at just 1 or 2 agencies unless the service is done through a school club, honor society or community service group.

Where is the best place for students to find opportunities?

The www.volunteerdelaware.org web site is the fastest and easiest way for a student to search for an opportunity to volunteer that matches his/her interest, skills and availability. Simply create a free account and then search by using a keyword or by zip code.

What if a student wants to volunteer at a for-profit organization or business?

The legislation indicates that the volunteer service is to be done only at non-profit organizations. However, hospitals, nursing homes, schools and non-profit day cares are also appropriate.

How many times can a student earn the Delaware Volunteer Credit?

*A student is eligible to receive the Delaware Volunteer Credit **only once** during the entire high school career.*

When is the best time to submit the student's verification information to the Office of Volunteerism?

The State Office of Volunteerism accepts verification by fax or by mail throughout the year. It is best to send the information in as soon as it is completed. The State Office of Volunteerism staff can review documentation and catch any problems that may exist in time for them to be resolved so that the student can still has time to qualify for the credit.

What about community service done in a faith-based setting?

*Service related to a religious institution must not be done as part of a religious service (ex. Choir singing, altar serving, bible teaching)
Service provided in support of programs provided by a religious institution and available to the greater community (i.e. not just to members) is eligible for the Credit (ex. choir singing at a nursing home, activity aide at a vacation bible school, church food pantry assistant).*

If a student performs community service as part of a requirement for a class for which he is already receiving credit, can he also use this service toward the 90 hour service requirement for the Delaware Volunteer Credit?

*No. Whenever school credit has already been given for service performed, no additional credit can be given for the same hours. However, if the student chooses to continue to volunteer at the same agency for an **additional** 90 hours over and above that required for the academic credit, as long as the hours are documented and verified, he may also be apply for the Delaware Volunteer Credit.*

Can a student who receives the Delaware Volunteer Credit use the same service hours toward the President's Volunteer Service Award?

*Yes. However it should be noted that the PSSA requires 10 additional hours (i.e. 100 hours total) and they must **all** be served within a 12 month period. We encourage students to try to qualify for both the DVC and the PSSA.*

Does the student receive any recognition along with the credit?

Yes. The student receives a Certificate of Appreciation signed by both the Governor of Delaware and the Secretary of Education. We encourage school officials to award the certificate at appropriate school recognition ceremonies.

When does the Office of Volunteerism process the Delaware Volunteer Credit verification forms?

*Just once a year - in the Spring. The deadline for submission is **April 15th**. If April 15th falls on a weekend, the deadline is extended to the following Monday.*

After submitting the verification forms, how will the counselor know if the student qualifies for the Credit?

Receipt of the signed Certificate is considered indication of approval for the Credit. This should occur in mid-May. Please make a copy of the certificate for the student's portfolio and award the certificate to the student at your school's most appropriate recognition event.

Can all 90 volunteer hours be completed during the summer months?

Yes. A student can accrue all hours over a combination of 2 summers.