

# SOBRATO HIGH SCHOOL



Service Learning Program  
Grades 9 - 12



# Service Learning Program Overview

- \* Sobrato High School students will participate in a variety of activities that enable them to explore different avenues for involvement in the community, discover connections to and extensions of their coursework, and develop individual skills that will benefit them in college and career and as lifelong members of society.



# Grade 9

Expectation: 10 hours

- \* Freshmen will be offered opportunities to complete their volunteer hours on campus. This may be through community service projects organized by Sobrato clubs, ASB, Advisory, or Administration. Hours may also be earned by participation in service learning projects assigned in regular classes.
- \* All hours must be signed off by a Sobrato staff member.



# Grade 10

Expectation: 10 hours

- \* Sophomores may complete their volunteer hours on campus. This may be through community service projects organized by Sobrato clubs, ASB, Advisory, or Administration. Hours may also be earned by participation in service learning projects assigned in regular classes.
- \* However, sophomores are also encouraged to engage in off-campus community service, either through a Sobrato organization or through a community nonprofit organization.
- \* All hours must be signed off by a Sobrato staff member. Any hours completed through a nonprofit must also be signed off by a representative of that organization (not the student's parent).



# Grade 11

Expectation: 10 hours

- \* Juniors may complete their volunteer hours on campus (see Grade 9), or off campus through a Sobrato organization (see Grade 10), but are encouraged to also seek independent community service opportunities through direct contact with community nonprofit organizations.
- \* All hours must be signed off by a Sobrato staff member. Any hours completed through a nonprofit must also be signed off by a representative of that organization (not the student's parent).



# Grade 12

10 hours **REQUIRED**

- \* Seniors may complete up to **2** of their hours on campus (see Grade 9), or off campus through a Sobrato organization (see Grade 10), but are **REQUIRED** to complete at least **8** hours off campus and through a community-based (not Sobrato-based) nonprofit organization.
- \* All hours must be signed off by a Sobrato staff member. Any hours completed through a nonprofit must also be signed off by a representative of that organization (not the student's parent).
- \* Seniors will include a slide about their community service in their Senior Exhibitions.



# More About Seniors...

- \* Seniors may complete their hours beginning in the summer immediately before senior year.
- \* Any summer hours must be turned in to the student's Civics or Econ teacher by the Tuesday after Labor Day.
- \* Seniors must complete their hours by the deadline established in their Civics class. **Seniors who do not meet that deadline will not pass Civics.** (This is not entirely new; the outside points requirement has been embedded in our Civics course for decades.)



# Silver Honor Cord & Seal

- \* Seniors who complete an application demonstrating exemplary commitment to Service Beyond Self, including successful completion of 50 hours of community service during the senior year, will be awarded a Silver Honor Cord at graduation, and will receive a Service Learning Seal on their diplomas.
- \* Please sign up at the Counseling Office.



# Service Learning Gold Seal

- \* Seniors who qualify for the Silver Honor Cord and Seal, and who undertake an individual service learning project of their own design (implemented through an off-campus nonprofit organization), may submit their project for consideration for Service Learning Gold Seal on their diploma.
- \* Applications for the Service Learning Gold Seal will include a description of how the project is tied to a curricular area, how the project has addressed a need in the community, and how the student has grown as a result of the project. A letter of recommendation from a representative of a community agency that benefitted from the project must also be included.
- \* Applications will be available at the Counseling Office.



# Some restrictions . . .

- \* Due to separation of church and state, students cannot receive community service hours for serving, promoting, or protesting against any church or religion; however, hours may be awarded for participation in community service activities through a church (such as programs to feed the hungry).
- \* Hours may NOT be earned for volunteering as an individual, rather than under the auspices of a nonprofit organization (so not just doing something nice for a neighbor, or planning an event with friends), or for free labor provided to a for-profit entity.
- \* No credit will be given for community service performed before the first day of high school, but hours may be earned over the summer beginning with the summer following freshman year, for the year immediately following that summer, as long as it meets all of the other requirements.
- \* No credit will be given for community service performed as a consequence of disciplinary measures.



# More restrictions/clarifications . . .

- \* You cannot get community service credit for volunteering for a club fundraiser, unless that fundraiser is raising money for an off-campus nonprofit organization.
- \* You cannot get community service for volunteer work that you perform in your home (like making blankets or cookies to donate, or fostering an animal). An important purpose of the community service is getting you out into the community, and engaged with nonprofit organizations as they perform their work. And a requirement of the program is that your work be supervised by someone other than your own parent/guardian.
- \* Community service credit is limited to **two hours per day** (even on weekends) for the 10 hours required for seniors. However, if you are trying for a Silver Honor Cord or a Gold Seal, hours beyond the first two can be credited towards those goals.
- \* You cannot get community service credit when you are supposed to be in school!



# Some pre-approved Community Service

(You must go through a representative of the organization;  
you cannot be your own supervisor.)

## You can help at:

- \* any public school (help any teacher or custodian)
- \* a park clean-up or other event through the City of Morgan Hill, or through Santa Clara County
- \* a public library
- \* Morgan Hill Senior Center (at the CRC)
- \* El Toro Youth Center
- \* San Martin Animal Shelter
- \* Town Cats
- \* Habitat for Humanity
- \* Second Harvest Food Bank
- \* One Step Closer (therapeutic horse riding program)
- \* Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Center (WERC)
- \* Learning & Loving Center
- \* Community Solutions
- \* any local convalescent hospital (only direct interaction with residents counts)
- \* *Expanded & updated lists will be posted in the Counseling Office, Front Office, & Library, & on each grade level's Google classroom.*



# Final Thoughts

- \* For freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, this program is voluntary (at least during this pilot year). But we hope you will participate, as the benefits of doing so are many:
- \* Students who meet the 10-hour target for their grade level will receive a Community Service Certificate.
- \* Community service can improve your college applications, and your chances for scholarships. It can also lead to job contacts, and the development of skills that can be beneficial as you continue on your path into the adult world.
- \* Most of all, it is rewarding and satisfying to help your community.



Sobrato High School Verification of Community Service  
THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED IN INK

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_ School Year \_\_\_\_\_

I volunteered for the following organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Single Event/Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time in: \_\_\_\_\_ Time out: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Events/Activities (logged on the back) Total Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

The person who was in charge of and can verify my volunteer work is:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for taking the time to provide guidance and an opportunity for our students to do volunteer work through your organization. Your sponsorship helps us do a better job of educating our community's young adults for responsible citizenship.*

Sobrato staff signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Class/organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Community Service Verification forms are available in the front office, and from your teachers. The verification signature cannot be from your parent/guardian.



# Community Service Volunteer Log

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time In</u>	<u>Time Out</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Supervisor's Signature</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

HOURS ON THIS LOG: \_\_\_\_\_

Both front and back must be completed, in ink.



Do good,  
Be great!

