

## Delaware Volunteer Credit Frequently Asked Questions

### **Where is the best place for students to find opportunities?**

The Volunteer Delaware website is the fastest and easiest way to search for volunteer opportunities. The website address is: [www.volunteer.delaware.gov](http://www.volunteer.delaware.gov)

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

Students may begin earning volunteer hours the summer between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade and continue through their high school career. Hours should be served in 2 semesters however, the semesters do not have to be consecutive. Any combination of summer, fall winter, or spring semesters is acceptable.

### **Can a student volunteer at more than one agency?**

Yes. This is up to the discretion of the student. However it is recommended students volunteer at 1 or 2 agencies.

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

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

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

We accept verification by fax or by mail throughout the year. We recommend submitting them when the student has completed the required 90 hours of volunteer service. The deadline for submission is **April 15<sup>th</sup>** each year. If April 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend, the deadline is extended to the following Monday.

### **What about community service done in a faith-based or political setting?**

Volunteer activity cannot be political or advocacy in nature. Valid volunteer service must not include inherently religious activities such as religious worship, religious instruction, or religious proselytizing. Service performed at or with a faith-based organization must have a secular purpose and meet a recognized need in the greater community.

### **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 been issued for service performed, no additional credit can be given for the same hours. The only exception is if the student chooses to continue to volunteer at the same agency over and above the required school hours and verified by school can this be considered. Hours must be performed outside the student's regularly scheduled school day.

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

Yes. **NOTE:** The PVSA requires 100 total hours for ages 16-25 and must be served over 12 consecutive months.

**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.

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

One time each year. 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 approval for the Delaware Volunteer Credit. This should occur by the middle of May.

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

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