



Missouri State University Fraternity and Sorority Life Community Service Policy and Guidelines

Updated September 2025

General Requirements

The purpose of this page is to define and explain the guidelines for what constitutes service for Fraternity and Sorority Life. These guidelines can be updated and changed. Some service experiences may exist in a paradox and need further discussion to constitute as service. Please email FSL@missouristate.edu with any questions or concerns to be discussed.

- Service hours must be submitted within 30 days of completion in order to be approved.
- If a chapter or an individual participates in service, there is an eight (8) hour maximum per day, even on the weekend. If you completed more than 8 hours of service, submit them as separate submissions.
- All areas of the service hour form need to be filled out in order for the hours to be approved. If one of the areas is left blank, the service hours will automatically be denied.

General Approved Service

- Students should complete service with an approved agency. These include most 501c3 organizations if the service meets the requirements outlined here.
- Hours will be given final approval on BearLink after the student submits information.
- If students believe the agency may not be approved or service may not count, they should email FSL@missouristate.edu to check prior to service. There will be no obligation to approve hours that do not meet the guidelines if they are not checked prior to service.
- Service should be addressing or bringing awareness to a humanitarian or community issue through an approved agency.
- Service that does not count: philanthropy donations or host philanthropy events for chapter, service for clubs or organizations, voluntary activities that are not service, political campaigning, and religious instruction. See individual sections that follow for more information



On Campus Service

- On Campus Service is service that is conducted for the benefit of Missouri State University
- Examples of pre-approved on campus service: Bear Crew, Bear CLAW Tutoring, helping with the Public Affairs Conference, Rally in the Valley, Rave in the Cave, Fountain Day, MO State Fair, May Day, Bear Pantry, Homecoming Parade Dawn Patrol
- Examples of things that do not count: volunteering with a theater or play, being a Playfair Facilitator, being a teaching assistant (practicum students), holding a leadership position on campus, clinicals that count as class credit, volunteer roles that are paid.

Off Campus Service

- Off Campus service is service that benefits those not associated with Missouri State University.
- Service conducted in the physical location of campus may still be “Off Campus Service” if the benefactor is someone not associated with Missouri State University (e.g. blanket making for children at a youth shelter conducted in a residence hall lounge on campus)

Travel & Training Times

- Travel to and from the service location does not count as service, unless specifically part of the service, which should be pre-approved by emailing @FSL@missouristate.edu
- Training or Orientation, if essential to the service and is conducted within one month prior to the service can be counted as service

Clubs, Religious & Civic Organizations

- Service benefiting only the membership of a club or civic organization will not count as service. This includes: preparing for a meeting, serving on committees, and other operations of the organization. *Service must address a humanitarian issue. (Example: A President of a student organization cannot count time spent setting up meetings or



preparing materials, as this 1) falls under their duties/responsibilities, and 2) benefits only the student organization.)

- Service benefiting only the membership of a religious organization will not count as service. This includes: youth groups, watching children during service, worship services, parking, and other tasks related to the operation of the religious organization. *Service must address a humanitarian issue. (Example: A student watching children during a church gathering cannot count the time because it benefits only the members of the religious organization.)
- Religious instruction of any kind does not count as service. If instruction is for a community educational interfaith purpose, email the FSL@missouristate.edu to see if your hours will count.
- If your club, church, or civic organization conducts service for a humanitarian purpose that meets the other needs in the community (such as serving food for the hungry), your hours will count. (Ex. Food drives, community festivals, ect.)

Summer Camps/Programs

- Summer camps can count as service, as long as one does not get paid for working the camp. They receive a standard 8 hours of service per day.
- Service for the camp such as maintenance, operations, activities, and responding to crises count as service.
- Being an adult leader for a group that attends camp or providing religious instruction is considered a leadership position and will not count as service
- Activities such as coaching will count as service, but travel time to games will not count

Compensation

- If you receive compensation for the service, you cannot count it as service.
- Receiving a t-shirt, free meal, or a place to sleep for an overnight camp is not considered compensation

Service-Learning Courses



- Students enrolled in Component Service-Learning courses (40 hours), can count 16 of their service hours toward scholarships, FSL, etc.
- Service as part of an Integrated Service-Learning course do not count as service
- Service above and beyond the requirements for a course will count as service

Philanthropy

- Philanthropy is the act of giving or raising money and/or items and does not count as community service (donating cans or clothes does not count as service).
- Participating in a walk, run or similar event is considered as an act of raising money and is constituted as philanthropy.
- Service towards an organization that is holding a run/walk or similar event will be counted as service (e.g. helping set up for the walk, serving as greeters for the event)
- Service hours cannot be used as rewards to incentivize members

Service to a Student Organization

- Leadership positions do not count for service, nor do any work conducted in benefit of a student organization
- Service conducted through a student organization for an outside organization will count as service, but the planning of the service event would not count as service

Political Activities/Advocacy Work

- Any political campaign or event that promotes a candidate, political party, or political ideal will not count as service
- Voter Registration drives will count as service if conducted through a non-partisan organization
- Participating in advocacy work for a social issue will count as service

Blood Drives



- Students will receive 1 hour of service for each time a successful blood donation is completed. There will be 2 hours awarded for double red donations.

Blanket and Card Making

- Students can make blankets to give to a shelter or write cards to people in hospitals, nursing homes, ect.
- Service hours are based on time spent making cards, not the number of cards made
- Students will receive up to 2 hours of service per activity.

Examples of Service Hour Opportunities

- Ozark Food Harvest, Bear Pantry, Fairbanks Community Hub Cleanup, Christian Campus Help, Springfield Community Gardens, Life360 Community Services, Humane Society, Drew Lewis Foundation, Discovery Center, Boys and Girls Club, Convoy of Hope.
- If you have any questions or need suggestions, email FSL@missouristate.edu