



United Way of Saginaw County Student Service Award

**What is the United Way of Saginaw County Student Service Award Program?*

The United Way of Saginaw County (UWSC) Student Service Award Program is a way of recognizing high school graduates who volunteer a considerable number of hours to benefit their community through service and volunteerism during the course of their high school careers. The UWSC Student Service Award will honor those special students who give their time, talent and treasure in activities outside of their school that help make an impact in their community. The Volunteer Pin will serve as a symbol of pride and dedication to helping other people and organizations in a considerable way.

**How Can You Receive the Service Award?*

Over the course of four years in a Saginaw County high school, students complete and officially document a significant number of hours of non-paid community service. Students must be registered on United Way of Saginaw County's volunteer management website, *1-800-Volunteer.org*. Through this program, participants will secure volunteer opportunities and record their service hours. A minimum of 25 hours must be done each school year. Participants will also be responsible for making sure their hours are verified by the corresponding agencies. Participants in 9th – 11th grades must make sure all their hours for that year have been entered and verified by June 1st of that school year. Participants that have met all the previous years' requirements must have everything submitted and verified by April 15th of their graduating year. They must also complete a Service Award evaluation form and submit a reflective essay/summary of their experiences. The award is not contingent upon grade point averages or activities done through the school - it is based on volunteer hours and how much time committed to the community. Once everything is submitted and verified the graduate will be recognized and given a pin at their senior awards ceremony.

**Recognition of Your Commitment*

The students from all Saginaw County high schools will be eligible to receive this prestigious award. This award will also be beneficial to the community as well as the student. The student will be able to put the award in their portfolio for future employment and college applications, and will be able to use the official UWSC volunteer summary when applying for scholarships and grants. Student recognition will take place at the annual honors award program at each school before graduation, when the student will receive:

- A pin to be worn as a token of honor with the graduation cap and gown,
- An official United Way of Saginaw County Service Report documenting hours served in their community, and
- A Certificate of Community Service from United Way of Saginaw County.

The students are making an impact to enhance the community they live in by volunteering.

**Who Sponsors the Award Program?*

This program was inaugurated by United Way of Saginaw County Volunteer Services. UWSC will be your contact for all questions and program opportunities. They will be available to help you register; assist you in finding opportunities on 1-800-volunteer.org; and receive your yearly reports.

**Phase-In Period*

To begin implementing the Award Program, United Way will allow these future graduating classes to complete the following reduced service hours.

2008 – 25 hours completed in one year
2009 – 50 hours completed over two years
2010 – 75 hours completed over three years
2011 and beyond - 100 hours completed over all four years

**Additional Information*

United Way of Saginaw County Volunteer Services will make the initial determination if the service qualifies for the award requirements. All service hours must be recorded on 1-800-volunteer.org. For any questions or for more information contact:

United Way of Saginaw County Volunteer Services

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