



# CULTIVATING SERVANT LEADERS

## Christian Service Opportunities at WCS

### Service is Key to Our Mission

Wilmington Christian School provides a distinctively Christian, innovative education that effectively develops Godly influencers who are well prepared for life after high school and who impact the culture for Christ. A key part of this vision is fostering a culture of selflessness and serving among our students. One of the four characteristics of the mature, godly influencer that we want each student to be (both now and long after they have graduated from WCS) is that of a servant leader, who . . .

- Readily accepts responsibility to serve and lead others,
- Communicates with clarity, civility, and conviction, and
- Wisely engages the culture as citizens of two kingdoms.

There are four pathways that we provide for our students to help develop this mindset. Two occur organically throughout the school year for all age groups, and two require Upper School students to take the initiative to fulfill the service expectation.

### 1. In-School Service Opportunities (Lower School & Upper School)

In the Lower School, students are given age-appropriate opportunities to serve their classmates, such as helping as line leaders, classroom helpers, chapel leaders, and sidewalk safeties. In the Upper School, students serve as Student Council and class officers, lunchtime table cleaners, sports team captains, elementary Teachers' Aides, and by volunteering on the Chapel Worship Team or Tech Crew.

Additionally, in the Upper School, members of the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society complete additional hours of service which are tracked by these clubs as part of the student's membership requirements.

### 2. Class or Group Service Days (Lower School & Upper School)

In both the Lower School and Upper School, WCS organizes service opportunities for classes or other groups (sports teams, etc.) to serve alongside local ministries and non-profits during a school day. This also exposes our students to the great work that is being done in our region.

### 3. Individual Student Service Opportunities (Upper School Requirement)

Students in the Upper School are expected to look for opportunities to serve others in their local church, local community, nationally in the United States, or abroad internationally. This is a continual expectation throughout the Upper School years. High school students will serve at least 12 hours and middle school students will serve at least 6 hours per academic year. These hours may be served at one time, or may be spread out over a period of months. Hours are due by April 15 each year and will be counted as a 4th Quarter grade for the student's Bible class. Any hours completed after April 15 or over the summer may be counted toward the next academic year.

Examples of potential service opportunities include (but are not limited to):

- Serving in the weekly children's ministry or at a summer VBS through their local church
- Participating in a mission's trip through WCS, a local church, or other agency
- Volunteering at a local, non-profit organization
- Raking leaves or shoveling snow (without pay) for an elderly neighbor
- Running the sound, lights, or other technical needs for their local church

- Babysitting (without pay) for a family in need
- Collecting food, clothing, or other resources for those in need

Essentially, anything a student does (1) for the benefit of others, (2) outside of his/her family, (3) without pay or stipend, (4) for at least the minimal required hours, and (5) by April 15 each year will meet this requirement.

Each year, students will articulate and reflect on their service on the Christian Service Form that they submit to their Bible teacher.

#### **4. Community Engagement Experience (Upper School only)**

This is a one-time service project of at least 20 hours that each WCS student will complete as a graduation requirement. After requesting and receiving approval from WCS, the high school student will volunteer for a local, non-profit organization and write a reflective response about their experience. The Community Engagement Experience must be completed within a 6-month period, sometime between the end of 8th grade and Thanksgiving of the student's senior year.

A separate document which contains the specific process and necessary forms can be found in the Upper School office or on the WCS website.

Local agencies that WCS students have served in the past include the following. Students are not limited to these organizations, but must receive prior authorization from the Dean of Students before beginning their project.

A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children	Local Public Library
Ashland Nature Center	Local Senior Center
Boys' and Girls' Clubs	Local YMCA
Brandywine Senior Center	Mary Campbell Center
Brandywine Zoo	Millcroft Senior Living
Cokesbury Village	New Castle Co. Safety Town
Delaware Children's Museum	Newark Parks and Recreation
Delaware Nature Society	Police Athletic League-Hockessin
Delaware Special Olympics	Read Aloud Delaware
Delaware State Parks	Regal Heights Healthcare and Rehab
Emmanuel Dining Room	Reins of Life PA
Food Bank of Delaware	Rockwood Museum
Good Neighbors	Ronald McDonald House
Habitat for Humanity	Shoes to Share
Hagley Museum	St. Francis Hospital
Kennett Area Parks and Recreation	Urban Promise

#### **More Information**

For more information on these or other service opportunities, please contact the Lower School or Upper School offices.

***"But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be servant of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." – Jesus (Mark 10:43-45)***

***"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" – Jesus (Matthew 5:16)***