Illini Union Office of Volunteer Programs

Legacy Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Can I do my service in any city or is service required to be completed in the C-U area?

A: The service hours can be completed with any service organization, service project, volunteer activity, or civic engagement group in any city. You must also remember to have your supervisor at the agency you volunteered with sign off on your hours on the tracking form and the agency contact form provided by the Office of Volunteer Programs.

Q: Are the required 50 hours of service per semester or per year?

A: The 50 service hours are per CALENDAR year. This means you should start working on your hours in January and must complete 50 hours by February 15, 2016.

Q: Does joining a Registered Student Organization (RSO) count, and if so can they sign off on my hours?

A: Joining a service-based RSO is a good way to get connected with campus and community organizations. However, students may not sign-off on your hours. If the student-run group has a faculty advisor, that advisor may, instead, sign off on your hours. If the student-run group volunteers at a community agency, then the agency volunteer manager should sign your forms. Additionally the service project leader may sign-off on your hours also. In the event of extenuating circumstances, please have the signee include a note in the comments section of the agency form and OVP will follow up if there are any additional questions or concerns.

Q: What qualifies as community service?

A: Anytime you volunteer with an organization and receive no form of monetary payment for your work, then that volunteer work should qualify as community service for the Legacy Scholarship. Generally, the volunteerism should be addressing a community need or social issue or serving the community-improvement goals of a non-profit organization. Your hours must still be tracked on the tracking form which must also be signed by a staff member or project leader of the agency.

Q: If I am a senior do I only need 25 hours of service?

A: Seniors graduating in December 2015 or May 2016 only need to complete 25 hours of service before the February deadline, although we always encourage you to do more, if possible.

Q: Can I volunteer with an elementary, middle, or high school?

A: Yes, as long as those hours are not being counted for class or internship credit, toward a minor or major, or for pay, as well.

Q: When is the deadline for turning in my forms?

A: Monday, February 15, 2016 by 5:00 PM CST
Q: For my service project, I gained a majority of my hours volunteering at the same place throughout last semester. Do I need to have the time chart filled out for each individual day that I volunteered or can I lump the project together?

A: If all 50 of your hours are through the same agency, you will need to fill out the tracking chart to provide an accurate account of all hours served.

Q: Can graduate students receive the legacy scholarship?

A: No. Legacy Scholarship Funds awarded by the Office of Student Financial Aid are ONLY for undergraduate students. Instead of scholarships, the Graduate College uses Legacy Fee funds to award fellowships to meritorious students. Graduate programs nominate students for these fellowships.

Q: What documentation is required for final submission and approval of the 50 service hours? Where are these forms located?

A: You must submit three documents: 1) Tally Cover Sheet; 2) Agency Contact Form; 3) Reflection of Service. You may download all forms from our website at: http://union.illinois.edu/ovp/LegacyScholarship.aspx. You may also pick-up printed copies from our office at 288 Illini Union South (Quad) Side.

Q: What are the consequences of not completing all of the hours required for the Legacy Scholarship?

A: The Office of Financial Aid will verify with the Office of Volunteer Programs whether your hours have been completed. Completion of the service hours is a requirement for renewing the scholarship. It is a decision of the Office of Financial Aid whether the scholarship will continue to be awarded to you if you do not maintain eligibility by completing your required hours.