Illini Union Office of Volunteer Programs

Legacy Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions:

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 can use volunteer hours dated back to January 2018 to aid in your completion of 50 hours by February 13, 2019. Seniors graduating in December 2018 or May 2019 only need to complete 25 hours of service before the February deadline, although we encourage you to do more if possible.

Q: What qualifies as community service?
A: Any time you volunteer with an organization and receive no form of monetary payment for your work, that volunteer work should qualify as community service for the Legacy Scholarship. Generally, the volunteerism should address a community need or social issue or serve the community-improvement goals of a non-profit organization. Your hours must be tracked on the Agency Contact form, which must also be signed by a staff member or project leader of the organization. This may not be signed by a family member.

Approved community service hours may be completed by volunteering with the following:

- Nonprofit organizations
- Service projects organized by a registered student organization
- Service Trips to different cities
- Community agencies
- Civic engagement groups

Q: Can I do my service in any city or is the service required to be completed in the C-U area?
A: The service hours can be completed with any service organization in any city. You must remember to have your supervisor at the agency sign off on your hours on the tracking form and the agency contact form provided by the Office of Volunteer Programs. This may not be signed by a family member.

Q: Does joining a Registered Student Organization (RSO) count, and can they sign off on my hours?
A: If the student-run group volunteers at a community agency, then the agency volunteer manager should sign your forms. The faculty advisor may also sign your form. If a volunteer manager or faculty adviser is not available, the president of the RSO or Philanthropy Chair may sign in their place. 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: Can I volunteer with an elementary, middle, or high school?
A: Yes, as long as those hours are not being counted for class, internship credit, or for pay.

Q: When is the deadline for turning in my forms?
A: Monday, February 15, 2019 by 4:59 PM CST
Q: For my service project, I gained a majority of my hours volunteering at the same place. Do I need to have the time chart filled out for each individual day or can I lump the project together?

A: If you volunteer multiple times through the same agency, you will need to list each individual day in the tracking chart on the Agency Contact Form to provide an accurate account of all hours served.

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 types of documents online: 1) a Service Hours Tally Cover Sheet; 2) an Agency Contact Form for EACH organization you volunteer with; 3) a one page Reflection of Service. You may download forms #1 and 2 through Compass 2g.

Q: How can I find volunteer opportunities?

A: There are many ways to find upcoming volunteer opportunities. Here are some suggestions:

- You may stop into the Illini Union Office of Volunteer Programs (OVP), located on in room 288 of the Illini Union on Mondays – Fridays from 9 am – 5 pm to get assistance with an OVP staff member.
- Complete a Volunteer Interest Form online to get suggestions face-to-face or through email from OVP staff. Complete the form at http://go.illinois.edu/volunteerform.
- Sign-up for OVP’s weekly volunteer listserv at http://go.illinois.edu/volunteerlistserv.
- Find volunteer resources and organizations at http://illiniunion.illinois.edu/ovp (OVP website), www.cuvolunteer.org (community agencies), and http://union.illinois.edu/uoficonnections (registered student organizations).
- Search for volunteer opportunities online by searching websites or social media.

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 are the consequences for failing to complete 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. If you have any questions regarding eligibility please contact a financial aid administrator at 217-333-0100 or finaid@illinois.edu.