

LIVING THE GOSPEL MENTOR AGREEMENT

Please print or type information below (Please fill in all blanks).

Date: _____ Advisor: _____

Student Name _____ Graduation Year: _____

Mentor Name: _____ Mentor Phone #: _____

Relationship of Mentor to Student: _____
 (Godparent, Confirmation Sponsor, Grandparent, Family Friend, Neighbor etc.)

Mentor Address (include street, city, zip) _____

Mentor Component of *Living the Gospel*:

In their freshmen year, or when transferring to Skutt Catholic, students choose someone to mentor them in the *Living the Gospel* program for their years in high school. Mentors agree to meet with their student at least once each quarter and to discuss service hours before and after they are completed. Mentors will give direction to students to the extent they are able. Mentors are not expected to be experts in religion, service work or spirituality. They are fellow pilgrims on the faith journey who are willing to share their time and experience with young people. Mentors with questions about their role should direct them to the Campus Minister or the student's advisor at SCHS (333-0818).

Mentors should meet the following criteria:

- A Christian with a strong faith commitment
- Able to discuss their faith journey with others
- Willing to help the student see how Christ is present in their life (service, retreat, worship, etc.)
- Able to challenge a student's reflections should they seem shallow
- Able to meet face to face with the student at least once a quarter
- Willing to pray with the student
- Willing to read, question, critique and add comments to student report forms
- Willing to recommend appropriate service opportunities to student, if necessary
- Willing to read and observe the guidelines for *Living the Gospel* (see back)

Mentors may not be the student's parent or someone who lives in the same household as the student and preferably not a Skutt Catholic faculty member. Mentors should be adult members of a faith community who are at least beyond college age.

"I understand the role of Christian Mentor in the *Living the Gospel* program at Skutt Catholic High School. I have read the guidelines and I agree to mentor the above student.

Mentor signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent signature (approval of mentor): _____ Date: _____

Advisor signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTE: LIVING THE GOSPEL GUIDELINES ON REVERSE SIDE

GUIDELINES FOR *LIVING THE GOSPEL* at SKUTT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me. . . Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least of mine, you did it for me." Matt 25:35-40

Living the Gospel at Skutt Catholic High School is a program designed with the religious formation of the students in mind. The objective of the program is to encourage and guide the students to the living out of the message of Jesus Christ. **As such it has a much more narrow focus than other programs which might be termed "community service" or "volunteerism."**

Jesus' message and ministry centered around two main objectives:

bringing forth the kingdom of God and

reaching out to the poor, vulnerable and marginalized in society.

Accordingly, *Living the Gospel* takes the message of Jesus seriously and requires students to do projects that are directly related to these two objectives.

Many good works that people do are admirable and worthy, but do not focus on these two concerns. We expect Skutt Catholic students to help their families, friends and neighbors; to contribute to their community; to care for the environment and God's creatures. We expect that they will do this as a matter of course because they are generous, thoughtful citizens and contributing members of human society. However, these things do not bring into clear focus the particular issues of Jesus and the Gospel. As a result, some types of service that would be good and praiseworthy in a "community service" context will not meet the guidelines of *Living the Gospel*.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

In general students will receive credit for *Living the Gospel* hours if their service:

1. Is in **direct** support of (a) those marginalized by society, e.g. the poor, homeless, sick, handicapped, unborn, abused **or** (b) building the kingdom of God, e.g. service to Skutt Catholic High School, parishes, churches. (**Note:** service to Skutt Catholic High School is limited to 20% of total hours).
2. Involves working **directly with people**, rather than doing administrative or clerical tasks.
3. Encourages students to move outside their "comfort zone," where they will meet people they would not normally meet and do things that they would not normally do. Helping family members and close friends is commendable and encouraged, but will not receive credit.
4. Is done in conjunction with established agencies or organizations to ensure student safety and effectiveness.
5. Students who do not satisfactorily complete their service requirements for the year will receive an F in service from their advisor. This will result in the assignment of new service hours equal to double the requirement for the year in which they failed and the loss of activities eligibility according to school policy. Details will be explained to students by their advisor.

REQUIRED HOURS: Grade 9 - 5 hours; Grade 10 - 10 hours; Grade 11 - 15 hours; Grade 12 - 20 hours.

SERVICE OF AT LEAST ONE HOUR IN TWO DIFFERENT CATEGORIES IS REQUIRED EACH YEAR. (e.g. Poor & Disabled; School & Homeless; Parish & Sick) No more than 20% of credit hours may be in the "school" category.

SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

In order to eliminate misunderstandings and disappointments, some specific examples of service which meets or does not meet the guidelines is provided.

MEETS GUIDELINES

Serving dinner at homeless shelter
Visiting/playing games at nursing home
Working for Habitat for Humanity
Visiting patients at hospital
Delivering food for Operation Others
Volunteering at Ronald McDonald House
Assisting special needs kids to play sports
Collecting for the needy at church
Being a mentor for underprivileged youth

DOES NOT MEET GUIDELINES

Volunteering at Humane Society
Picking up trash
Working at a library
Visiting a sick relative
Shoveling snow, helping with moving for friends, relatives
Baby-sitting for free for friend, neighbor, relative
Coaching or helping with sports team or clinic
Projects done for other requirements (Confirmation, Boy/Girl Scouts, etc.)
Fundraisers for civic causes

No set of guidelines can speak to every possible situation and special circumstances can be considered on an individual basis. However **students should seek prior approval from their advisor for any project which might be questionable.** Seeking clarification or approval just before the deadline for submission of hours could result in negative consequences for the student. There are always appropriate service opportunities posted on the service bulletin board around the corner from the Campus Ministry/Religious Education office.