**Global Citizenship Points:**

**Community Service, Service Learning,**

**And Global Cultural Experiences**

**Graduation Distinction:** To earn the full endorsement from the International Studies Schools’ Network and to receive a graduation distinction from the Academy for Global Studies, students must earn a minimum of 80 Global Citizenship points by May 1 of senior year.

**Service Point Basics:**

* Each hour of service = one global citizenship point.
* AGS travel experiences and project-based learning units often include service, but students are also expected to complete community service work outside of school hours.
* Donation drives convert to points based on number of items donated (see chart below).
* Service = helping people, animals, or planets (well, Earth) in need. Not all volunteer activities result in service points, so check the Frequently Asked Questions page on the AGS website or talk to your teachers to confirm that an activity may be logged as service for AGS.
* Students log all points through our online points tracking system: [www.x2vol.com](http://www.x2vol.com). Nothing is entered automatically, so be sure to log both school-sponsored and out-of-school activities.
* All service points must be verified by an adult leading the activity (not a parent). Verification may be electronic or on paper copies of the site visit verification form (available on the AGS website). Signed forms are then submitted to the grade level binder in the AGS Office.
* There is no requirement to earn a certain number of points each year, but points must be logged by May 1st each year. If a student fails to submit hours, those hours may not be submitted the following year for credit. May-August hours roll ahead to the next school year.
* There is a cap on some service experiences. Each summer, for example, students may earn a maximum of 30 points, regardless of number of hours served. See the FAQ for more details.
* Beginning Sept. 1, 2017, students may earn 10 points per year by attending Global Cultural Events and reflecting on the experience. See the next page for details.

**Points Chart for Common Service Activities**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description of Activity** | **Points Awarded s** | **Description of Activity** | **Points Awarded** |
| 1 hour of service | 1 point | Heifer Learning Expedition:  Global Village Chores | 2 points |
| 1-2 donated items to AGS-approved drive | 1 point | Costa Rica Learning Expedition:  Bribri and Finca Service | 5 points |
| 3 (to 9) donated items | 2 points | Upcycle Project (10th grade)  Teach-for-a-Day (10th grade) | 2 points  2 points |
| 10 or more donated items | 3 points  Limit of 3 points per drive. | Junior and senior trip service points vary, based on the location and hours served | Approx. 5 points per year |
| Leadership points: design an activity for a group of peers or AGS, as a whole | 5 points | Peer tutoring (tutors must maintain an A average and receive approval/supervision from course instructor) | 1 hour in supervised tutorial session = 1 point; limit of 15/yr |

**Service Point Caps:**

* **Summer Service =** cap of 30 points earned during summer months (typically June 1-August 20)
* **Runs/Athletic Event Fundraisers for Charity =** cap of 5 points per event; this includes physical participation in the event as well as volunteer roles like working check-in tables, water booths, clean-up crew, etc.
* **Campaigns/Civic Engagement** = cap of 5 points per year; includes volunteering for political leaders (either elected or campaigning), working as a capitol page, unpaid internships, documented participation in marches/demonstrations, volunteering a legal office (your work is indirectly benefitting those in need, but you don’t have face-to-face contact with people)
* **Volunteering for a School Organization** = cap of 5 points per year; if you are volunteering your time to help out an Austin High School club/organization raise funds or run an event, you may earn up to 5 points per year (Examples: Monster Concert for orchestra, working at a camp for sports, theater, etc. that is designed to raise money to benefit you)

**Global Cultural Experiences**

**Beginning on Sept. 1, 2017, AGS is adding “Global Cultural Experiences” as an option for earning points. These experiences (which can earn up to 10 points per year) combined with service points = “Global Citizenship Points.” Global experiences earned prior to Sept. 1, 2017 are not grandfathered in, but students in all grades may begin attending/counting global cultural experience points from this point forward.**

**Each global cultural experience = 2 points (not tied to an amount of time); cap of 10 global cultural experience points per year**

**Verification: Submit proof of participation (a brochure, ticket, program, or picture of you at the event) + a written reflection on the experience by uploading files to www.x2vol.com. Parent signatures will be allowed for verification of attendance at global cultural experiences. Please note: parent signatures are *not allowed* for service hours.**

**What events are approved? See a list of upcoming or ongoing cultural events on the AGS website, or check in with your Social Studies teacher for pre-approval of an event. The experience should allow you to investigate the world and recognize new perspectives that vary from your own experiences.**

**What counts?**

* **Festivals, dances, plays, musical performances, films (shown in theaters, not on Netflix, etc.) that clearly immerse you in a global culture that is different from your own**
* **International travel experiences outside of AGS-sponsored travel (EF Tours, CIEE, etc.)**
* **Hosting an exchange student**
* **Visiting a place of worship that is *very* different from your own (not another denomination, but a completely different religion)**
* **Listening to a speaker, visiting a museum exhibit, attending a lecture with a global focus**
* **Experiences *pre-approved* by your Social Studies teacher or advertised on www.austinhighglobal.org.**

**More information about Global Citizenship Points in AGS**

**Why serve?**  
In the International Studies Schools Network, students are prepared to be active global citizens by engaging directly with local, national, and international communities to take action and solve problems. To be honest, though, most people who serve others say they learn the most about themselves in the process.  
  
**What is community service?**  
When you make a donation (of goods, time, or sweat) that benefits another person or organization, that’s community service.  This category can include things that you do **outside of school**(volunteering at an assisted living center, offering free childcare at your church, making sandwiches for homeless people, volunteering at an animal shelter, caring for community gardens, participating in a holiday-related event like Thanksgiving with Caritas or “Coats for Kids,” etc.) and **school-related activities** (school-sanctioned canned food drives, planned service activities during our travel experiences, etc.).

**What is service-learning?**  
This is a learning strategy that asks students to apply knowledge and skills from school to research, identify, and address community needs.  This scenario focuses as much on the learner and the process as it does on the intended recipient.  In service-learning, the student is often the designer/organizer of the experience. Service-learning refers to specific curriculum experiences such as the freshman food label or garden project, the sophomore TGPLAN  (Think Globally, Problem-solve Locally, Act Neighborly) advocacy project, and the senior capstone experience.  
  
**Is service the same thing as volunteering?** These words have a lot in common, but there is a subtle difference.  When you are volunteering, you are giving your time because you choose to do so, and there is no expectation of anything in return. You might volunteer for a political cause, volunteer to babysit your little sister, volunteer through an internship, volunteer to pass out papers in class, volunteer to bring donuts to your friends, volunteer to help your club sponsor take tickets at the door of an event, or even volunteer as tribute. Those are all really nice things that may lead to great learning opportunities, and we encourage you to do them. For our graduation distinction, however, we are focusing on **direct service to specific groups in need**. This can include people in need (children, elderly, homeless, poor, victims of a recent tragedy, etc), animals in need (specifically shelter animals or animals used to help people), or planets in need (parks and river clean-up, community garden work, etc.)  
  
**So what’s expected of me?**We want you to participate in community service **and** service-learning activities.  Each year, students should strive to earn 30 points (for a total of 120 by May 1 of your senior year).  Students who achieve that goal of earning 120 points or more will be honored at the Senior Salute and will receive the “Globie Award.”  We know that some students, especially students who work or who are involved in time-consuming extra-curricular activities, will struggle to earn 120 points.  If a student has completed all other endorsement requirements, and they have earned a **minimum of 80 service points**, they will be eligible for a full endorsement from AGS/ISSN and a graduation distinction in their senior year.  **Beginning Sept. 1, 2017, students may also attend global cultural experiences (outside of school-planned trips) to earn up to 10 "cultural experience points" per year. Service + global cultural experiences = GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP POINTS.**