



Community service is an important component of the educational mission at Gaston Day School. Involvement in service activities enables students to learn about the needs of individuals and our community while instilling a sense of personal responsibility and commitment to others. I encourage students to complete their community service requirements during the summer. **Community service hours for the upcoming school year must be logged between June 1, 2026, and May 15, 2027. For seniors, your hours should be completed by May 13th, the last day of school.**

Students must complete a minimum of 25 hours of community service each year they are enrolled as Upper School students at Gaston Day School. Such service must meet the following requirements:

- The activity must be voluntary and unpaid, not a disciplinary/legal consequence or class/club obligation.
- The activity must have the primary purpose of bettering some person or group other than the student or the student's family.
- Career shadowing/internships do not constitute community service.
- Any single activity resulting in more than 25 hours of service must be approved in advance by a student's advisor.
- Reported service hours should only include the time spent *working*. Hours spent traveling, sleeping, eating, etc., should not be reported.

Verification of service must be submitted using the designated online HelperHelper app. Accounts will be set up, and directions will be given by advisors at the beginning of school. Advisors will monitor student progress throughout the year. Opportunities for participation in service projects abound through school clubs/organizations, the network of Gaston Day School families, and local business/community organizations. All Upper School students must serve at least 5 of their required hours in service to Gaston Day School and at least 5 of their required hours in service to a community need - not affiliated with Gaston Day School. Students not meeting the community service requirement will have their failure to meet the obligation clearly documented on their official transcript.

Students struggling to meet the community service requirement are encouraged to reach out to their advisor or the Dean of Students for ideas on earning hours in a safe environment.

Spartan Strong Volunteer Service Award

Students at Gaston Day School are encouraged to extend themselves and actively serve as volunteers in the larger community. The Spartan Strong Volunteer Service Award recognizes Upper School students completing 100 or more hours within a one-year period. These hours should be reported by April 2nd to be considered for this award. These awards are presented at the Upper School Awards Ceremony and Senior Awards Ceremony each spring.