

Citizenship Award 2018-2019

Winnebago Middle School believes community service is an important component of a student's educational experience. Activities that aid those in need or benefit those less fortunate are examples of community service. We encourage our students to be an advocate of their community. A student benefits from activities that help those in need, benefit those less fortunate, and promote the general welfare of our society. Students see that their time and efforts can have an important impact on the lives of others. From this involvement, it is our hope students gain a sense of accomplishment, independence, and personal responsibility.

Education is not only what takes place in the classroom, but what takes place outside of school. Community Service is a way for students to help others by volunteering their time, effort, and/or talents to members of the community without compensation.

By completing community service, not only are members of the community benefiting, but so are the volunteers. There are many benefits that students gain from their volunteering experiences which have positive impacts on them. Below are just a few:

- 1. Youth say the benefits received from volunteering are: Learning to respect others; learning to be helpful and kind; learning to understand people who are different; developing leadership skills, becoming more patient, and better understanding of citizenship.*
- 2. Youth who volunteer are more likely to do well in school and graduate.*
- 3. Youth who volunteer just one hour or more a week are 50% **less** likely to abuse alcohol, cigarettes, become pregnant, or engage in other destructive behavior.*

Research indicates that community service can:

- 4. increase students' personal, interpersonal and social development (Billig 2000)*
- 5. increase motivation, student engagement, and school attendance (Billig 2000)*
- 6. lead to new perspectives and more "positive lifestyle choices and behavior." (Civic Literacy Project 2005)*

Community service provides students with:

- 7. a sense of responsibility for helping to solve those problems*
- 8. a sense of genuine cooperation and community spirit*
- 9. academic, workforce and citizenship skills while helping to solve local problems*

The Citizenship Award will recognize middle school students who demonstrate a great commitment to community service. Students eligible for the Citizenship Award are those who meet the following criteria:

- A minimum of thirty (30) hours of community service completed during the 2018-2019 school year**
- Completion of the Community Service Log**
- All records turned in to the Middle School Office no later than May 3, 2019**

