

SCOUTS-L

SERVICE PROJECTS

Date: Thu, 17 Aug 1995 01:28:37 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: David Scammell <David_Scammell.Orlando_spg@xerox.com>
Subject: Re: Double Counting Service Hours

David,

You indicated in your posting your belief that

**>any Service hours performed by a Scout can be counted towards their
>advancement, if and only if they are not 'credited' for the hours with
>another organization.**

The requirements leave this to the discretion of the SM. However, I would ask you where you came up with the "if and only if" rule you have espoused and why? It seems to me that the purpose is to encourage character development and to help build citizenship skills. If the in school service furthers these purposes, why not count it? I don't recall anywhere in the literature the imposition of an additional requirement that the service be voluntary above and beyond any other requirements of other organizations. Again, it comes down to the purposes of Scouting - will the service further those purposes? If so, we ought to give credit.

Likewise, there is no rule that would prevent a Scout from being able to count community service performed as the result of a detention assignment, if that service furthered character development and citizenship training. Most probably recoil a little at the thought that punishment should be used to fulfill a requirement and I still confess to being uncomfortable with this myself. But why not turn a bad situation into a positive growth experience, that's what we're about isn't it? I would in such a case recommend though that the SM have a serious talk about the Scout's execution of the Scout Law and encourage the Scout to do more than the minimum as a demonstration of his ready acceptance of his obligations of service, but would tend to want to give an SM a great deal of discretion here to decide what would really help the Scout to grow.

**Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
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Date: Sat, 19 Aug 1995 00:43:36 -0400 (EDT)

**From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: David Scammell <David_Scammell.Orlando_spg@xerox.com>
Subject: Re: Double Counting Service Hours**

Jim Carter's posting on this subject really hits home! When a Scoutmaster is

asked by a Scout to count service at school, church or elsewhere in the community, the only inquiries should be how much the Scout put into to the effort, how much he learned, and how much he has grown by the experience.

And if there is any doubt, I have to agree with Rodger's reference to BP's "In the case of a reasonable doubt, let the decision be made in favor of the boy." If a Scout has grown by his experience, then any restriction set up by an arbitrary rule tends to be counter-productive towards recognizing that growth and encouraging more of the same.

And speaking as an employer, I can tell you that I would have doubts about someone who insisted on doing everything separately with compartmented thinking, instead of finding ways to maximize productivity by getting the most out of their effort. Time too is a precious resource that is too often wasted, why not encourage Scouts to learn now how to maximize their time and get the most out of it.

If you were conducting a fundraising event with sales of both wreaths and wrapping paper, you wouldn't expect the Scout to go around to everyone first to sell paper and then go back to sell wreaths. You'd probably be critical of his wasting time and encourage him to sell both at the same time. Similarly in School - what is better several independent unrelated projects or several that overlap? Of course with the several related projects, the student learns the relationships between different disciplines and cross-application of information, which is a separate valuable skill that the other student would miss entirely. Examples could go on endlessly, but the point is that we should realize the value in cross-pollination.

Let's help the Scouts grow and not stifle them with a barrage of private rules. The flexibility of the program has a purpose and it is to encourage growth in each Scout allowing discretion - use it, don't abuse it.

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Date: 21 Aug 95 10:48:46 EDT
From: "John M. Ballenger" <73363.2157@compuserve.com>
To: <mfbowman@capaccess.org>
Subject: Reply to: Re: Double Counting Service Ho

Mike,

I concur 100% with your comments re double counting service hours. A little common sense - which was abundant in your post - goes a long way.

YIS,

E-mail from: John M. Ballenger, 21-Aug-1995