Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
Student Service Learning (SSL) Program

What is SSL?

- Student Service Learning is a state graduation requirement for all students between grades 6-12.
- Students learn from volunteering and providing meaningful service to the community.
- Service learning promotes civic knowledge, civic engagement, academic success, and character and social development in students.
- Check out the MCPS SSL Hub of Resources for students and families (***http://bit.ly/SSLHubMCPS***) and this video that shares SSL information with sample SSL projects (***http://bit.ly/mcpssslvideo***)!

MD state and MCPS requirements

- All Maryland and MCPS students will earn 75 SSL hours for graduation.
- MCPS students may begin to work on this graduation requirement **the summer after completing Grade 5.** They can continue to earn hours throughout high school.
- Students who enroll in MCPS after Grade 6 will receive a waiver that pro-rates the SSL requirement.

How do MCPS Students earn SSL Hours?

Students can earn their 75 SSL hours required for graduation in two ways:

1. **Students can earn 50 SSL hours through successful completion of the courses listed below. The teachers lead them through a class research and service project.**

10 Hours	Grade 6 Science
10 Hours	Grade 7 English
10 Hours	Grade 8 Social Studies
5 Hours	High School Health A
+ 15 Hours	High School Class– National, State, and Local Government

50 Hours Total for In-School Classes

2. **25 SSL Hours from outside of school (non-profit agency)**
   Students can find an MCPS SSL Organization and Opportunity by visiting the Montgomery County Volunteer Center (MCVC) website (***www.montgomeryserves.org***) to find approved SSL opportunities. (They all have a graduation cap and "MCPS SSL" label on them to make it very clear that they are preapproved. Please see tips for searching the MCVC website on the attached handout.)

   Students can also find their own non-profit agency (local, state, or nationwide) not on the MCVC website and fill out **MCPS Form 560-50**: ***Individual Student Service Learning Request Form*** (***http://bit.ly/SSLPreApproval***), and submit it to their school-based SSL coordinator (during the school year) or to ssl@mcpsmd.org (during the summer) to get it approved BEFORE service.

All MCPS SSL Opportunities must be:

- For a registered non-profit agency
- Nonreligious/secular in nature
- In a public place
- Supervised (not by a parent or relative)
- For volunteer service only (not paid)
- For no more than 8 hours in a day

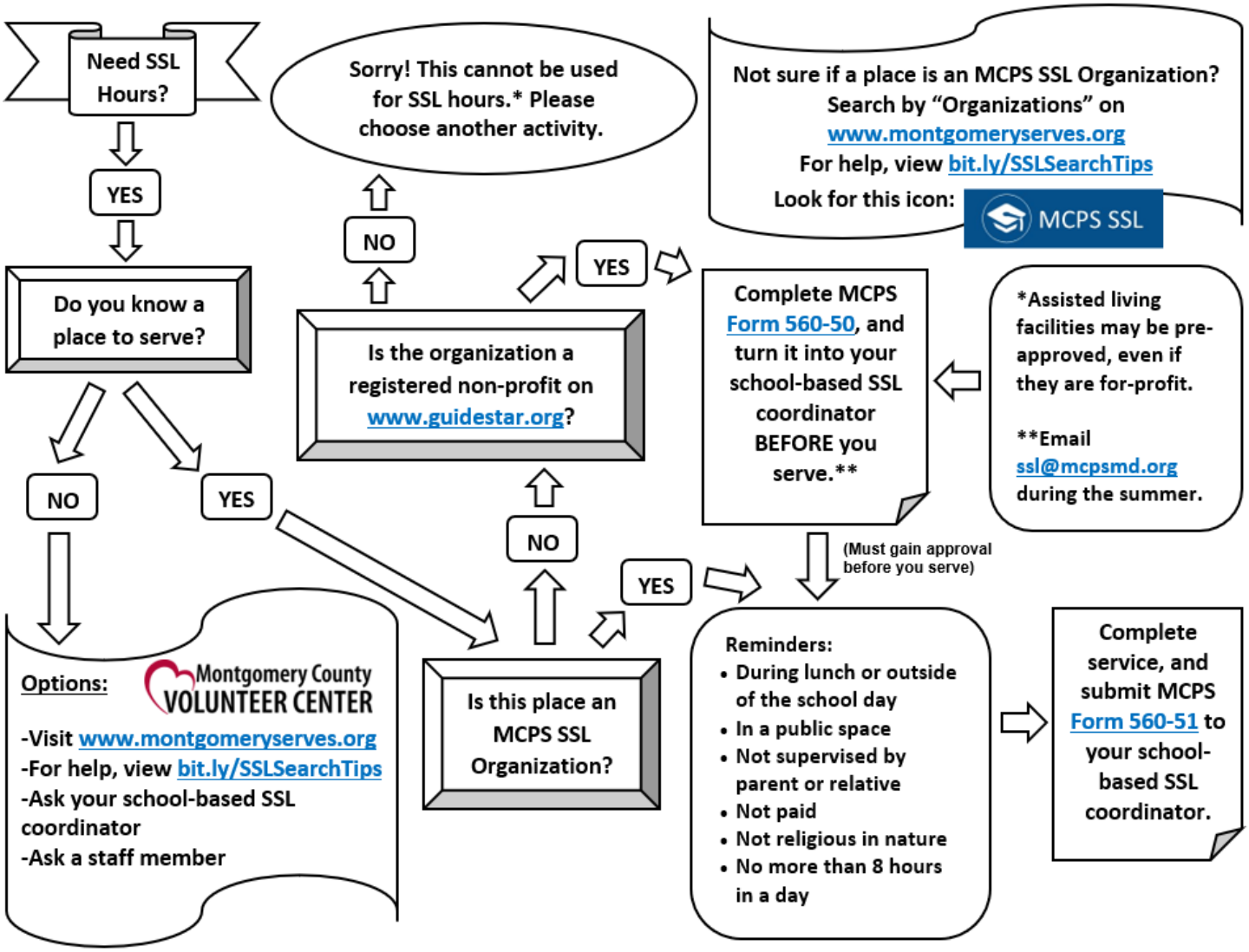
MCPS SSL

To find nonprofit-hosted SSL opportunities, please visit https://bit.ly/SSLOpportunities

MCPS Form 560-51: *Student Service Learning Activity Verification* *http://bit.ly/SSLReflection*

This form is used to document a student's SSL hours and to submit to the school-based SSL Coordinator who will review them and add them to the student's SSL record.

Use this flowchart to determine the steps an MCPS Student needs to take to earn SSL Hours.



There are 2 kinds of SSL Awards for students meeting special SSL benchmarks.

Grade	Award
Grades 6, 7, & 8	**Superintendent's Service Learning Award** (75 Hours earned while in middle school; only awarded one time)
Grade 12	**Certificate of Meritorious Service** (240 Hours earned by senior year in high school)

All SSL Forms for service completed any time during the current school year and the summer before the current school year are **REQUIRED** to be submitted to the school-based SSL coordinator no later than the **first Friday in June**.

Montgomery County Volunteer Center Webpage:
www.montgomeryserves.org

MCPS SSL Webpage:
www.mcps-ssl.org

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