



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 B
+ 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 (including faith-based agencies or institutions) 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
- 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



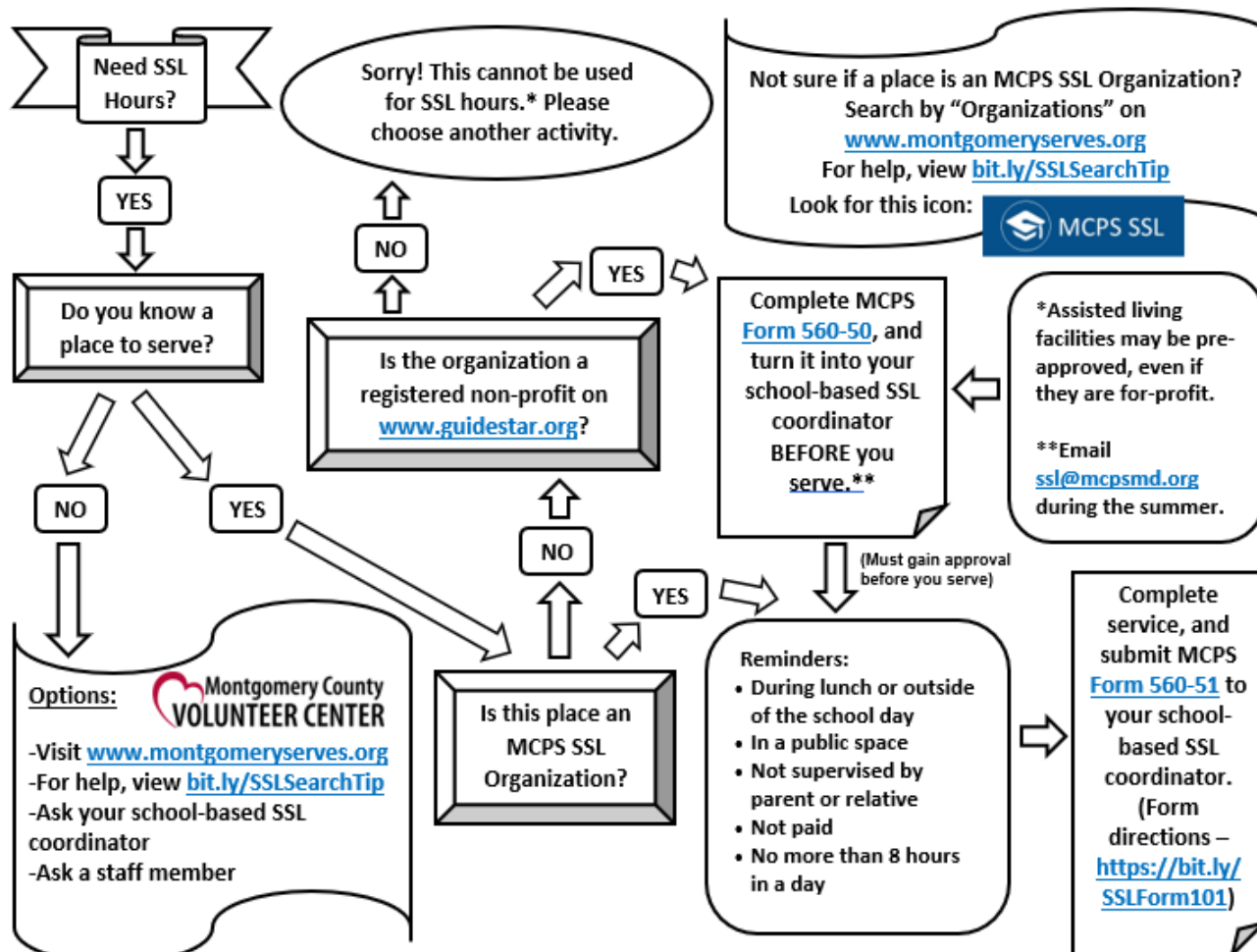
To find nonprofit-hosted SSL opportunities, please visit <https://bit.ly/SSLOpportunities>

MCPS Form 560-51: Student Service Learning Activity Verification <https://bit.ly/SSLReflection>

This form is used to document a student’s SSL hours and submitted to the school-based SSL Coordinator who reviews and adds hours to students’ SSL records. (Form directions can be found at <https://bit.ly/SSLForm101>).

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

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There are two (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 **last Friday in May**.

Montgomery County Volunteer Center Webpage:
www.montgomeryserves.org

MCPS SSL Webpage:
www.mcps-ssl.org

Follow us!
 @mcps_ssl



Searching the Montgomery County Volunteer Center (MCVC) Website for Student Service Learning Opportunities and Organizations



Searching for MCPS SSL Opportunities

Step 1: Go to www.montgomeryserves.org.

Click “MCPS SSL Opportunities” in the red box at the top of the page.



Step 2: Use the Search Tools to search and/or filter opportunities:

- To search by Keywords, enter words in this box (ex. hunger, children, animal, etc.):

- To filter opportunities, use the “Filter By” feature:
(on Mobile Devices, click the wrench icon  to bring up the filter options)

Each filter contains a custom search box.

You can stack/add as many filters as you'd like to find the best opportunity for you!

Step 3: When you find an opportunity that interests you, click the  button to send a message of interest directly through the website.

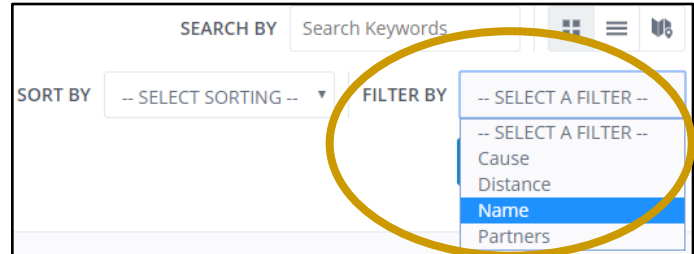
If you would like to call or email the organization instead, you may find their contact information by clicking the Organization page to the right of the Opportunity Description.

Searching for MCPS SSL Organizations

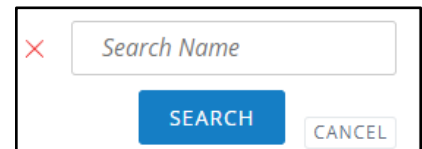
Step 1: Go to www.montgomeryserves.org.
Click “MCPS SSL Organizations” in the red box at the top of the page.



Step 2: Within the Search Tools, use the “Filter By” feature, and select “Name.”



Step 3: Type the organization name in the search box, and click “Search.”



Step 4: Click on the Organization page. If you see this MCPS SSL icon in the “What We Do” section, you may earn SSL hours for serving with this organization.



Step 5: Scroll down to view any Organization Opportunities that have been posted.

Step 6: Click  if you want regular updates on this organization’s latest opportunities.

Searching for Date-Specific Opportunities

Step 1: Go to www.montgomeryserves.org.
Click “Calendar” in the red box at the top of the page to find date-specific opportunities.



Step 2: Click on a specific opportunity.
If you see this banner at the top of the Opportunity page, then you may earn SSL hours for participating in that opportunity:

