

MCPS SSL Guidelines

- The Girl Scout Council Of The Nation's Capital and The Boy Scouts Of America, National Capital Area Council are MCPS SSL approved organizations as indicated on the Montgomery County Volunteer Center website:
 - Girl Scouts- <https://volunteer.truist.com/mcvc/org/10497826497.html>
 - Boy Scouts- <https://volunteer.truist.com/mcvc/org/10474833070.html>
- MCPS students may earn SSL hours for the approved activities that are listed in this organization's profile in the "SSL Not Recruiting" section at the bottom of the page. Only service activities that benefit the greater community are eligible for SSL hours. Any troop activities that exclusively benefits a troop (such as den/troop meetings, recognition events, team building activities, or supporting other local troops) are not eligible for SSL hours.
- Students who are seeking to earn the Eagle Award or Silver Award by leading and coordinating a community service activity must still follow the MCPS SSL guidelines:
 - Supervised by an adult representing the organization (i.e. the troop leader); the adult must sign the SSL Activity Verification Form
 - The service activity must be secular and conducted in a public location
 - Only the direct service portion of the activity is eligible for SSL hours; logistical and communications activities that are supervised by parents/relatives and are held in a private residence are not eligible for SSL hours

Background Information

- Historically, there was a situation in Montgomery County in which students affiliated with Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts troops were primarily earning SSL hours for service that only benefitted the troop.
- While the service to troops is valuable and meaningful, it is not in alignment with the MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education) best practices of addressing a recognized need in the greater community.
- To address the issue, MCPS SSL office made an agreement with the representatives from these organizations to ensure that students could only earn SSL hours for community service projects and not for troop activities. The representatives also agreed to communicate these guidelines with local troops/councils. Hence the reason why this is explicitly stated in the approved descriptions for both organizations.