

Family Serve Day FAQ's

What is Family Serve Day?

Family Serve Day is a designated day where our students, parents, teachers, alumni, and staff join together in teams to serve other throughout the community. As we unite with our families to develop true servant leaders, our prayer is that service becomes a lifestyle for our SMSS families. We believe if families serve together, they are able to grow closer to God together. Through this day of serving, perhaps our families will continue their service together throughout the year at one or more of these ministries.

All students must be signed up to work at a site on or off campus along with having an informed consent signed by the parent.

“Serve one another in love.” Galatians 5:13

How will I know which site to select?

A list of all the locations to which we will be sending teams to serve is found on our webpage. You will find the ministry location and read about their ministry and vision. Also listed are ways in which that team will serve, number of volunteers needed, and any age restrictions.

Once we select a desired site, how do we sign up?

The sign-up will open on March 4 at 7:00PM and can be found on our website. Each volunteer site has a specific number of volunteer slots for their projects. If the volunteer site still has openings, you will be guided through the sign-up process. Once those slots are filled, please find another volunteer site with spots available.

To complete the registration process, you will also have to complete the Registration Form which is also found on the website.

What if I can't serve with my child(ren)?

If parents are not able to participate, another designated family member can serve with them. Parents must register their own child even if they cannot attend. The Registration Form allows you to list the designated family member's information.

If no parent or family member can serve with the student, they will participate in our on-campus volunteer projects. These students will follow the regular dismissal schedule and will be picked up as a regular day.

Students who are in grades 6th-12th can participate with another family in the absence of a parent/designated family member. The parent must still register their student(s) and during registration indicate who will be responsible for transporting the child to and from the site and for the student's safety at the site.

Can a family bring a St. Mary student NOT in their own family whose parents or designated family cannot serve?

Yes, a parent or guardian can sign a waiver for their **grade 6th-12th** child(ren) when they register online to serve with another family. The other family must be willing to take responsibility for your **grade 6th- 12th** child(ren) and transport your child(ren) directly to and from the site. The family must meet Safe Environment requirements for supervision and transportation.

Students who are younger than 6th grade are not able to leave campus without a parent/guardian or designated family member. They will participate in the on campus volunteer projects.

Are students allowed to drive to the work site?

Students must ride with their family to the work site. Students will not be allowed to leave campus on their own to drive to a site.

Do you have to be a certain age to participate?

Some of the volunteer sites have age requirements due to the nature of the volunteer activities. These age requirements are found on the list of volunteer site descriptions and on the Sign-Up form.

We have plenty of volunteer opportunities for all ages. Please do not sign up for a site if your child does not meet the age requirements.

Once I sign up for a site, how will I communicate with my team leader?

Your team leader will contact you and keep you updated and informed leading up to Family Serve Day.

Will there be a Mass before service day?

There will be a Family Serve Day System Mass held Wednesday, April 22 at 10:00 AM in the High School gym. Parents are welcome to attend, but it is not required.

Will we meet at school or at our work site on Family Serve Day?

On Wednesday, April 22, you will meet at the school for Mass. After Mass, families going off campus will take their children to the site where they are serving. Students remaining on campus will go to the on campus volunteer site after Mass for lunch and service activities.

Will lunch be provided?

Sack lunches may be purchased through the school food service. Information about purchasing sack lunches will be sent after registration is received. Families who sign up for lunch will use their child's lunch account to pay for the meal and will pick up lunch at the school to eat there or at the work site. Please be sure your child's account has enough in it to cover your lunch cost if you would like a school lunch too. Students staying on site will eat lunch at the school.

If a student does not participate, will they be counted absent?

If a student does not participate they will be counted as absent. If you do not have proper documentation it will be counted as an unexcused absence.

All students must be signed up for a work site by their parent or guardian.

Can another adult relative serve with our family (i.e. grandparent, aunt, uncle)?

We would love for additional family members to serve with your family if they desire to do so. Please include them when you register for a service site location.

What about preschool students?

Preschool students will not participate in the Family Serve Day activities. Preschoolers will have a regular school day and can be dropped off and picked up at their regular time.

What if it rains and we are scheduled for an outdoor site?

A determination will be made the day of the event, or before weather dictates, if the outdoor work sites will continue or if we allocate families to open/available indoor sites.