

SHELBY COUNTY VETERANS COURT

Policy & Procedure Manual

Volunteer Experience

Volunteering in the community is a way to “give back” and to be of service to others. Service work is an important part of your recovery journey. Giving of your time and effort shows selflessness instead of selfishness. Volunteering is an act that gives others hope or benefits others without expecting compensation. When we were actively using substances including alcohol we put others at risk, disappointed or emotionally hurt friends or family and participated in a lifestyle that put our wish to keep using before the needs of others.

As part of your continued progress in the Veterans Court program you are required to select a volunteer site and complete 40 hours of volunteer service. You will have 120 days to complete the required 40 hours. You must complete 10 hours per month, the first month starting with your Phase V promotion date. These hours can be completed at an organization or agency of your choice, outside of your treatment agency or where you are currently volunteering. This is to get you to experience other types of community service. Reflect on your interests, hobbies or something you have always wanted to try. Make a list or have your counselor help you with a list of things you would like to try. After you have made your list, write down specific places you could go to and ask to volunteer. If you cannot think of any sites your counselor can provide the names of some organizations that always need volunteers. Your case manager or counselor can also help you contact the organizations to find out if they are accepting volunteers.

You will be provided with a letter outlining the community service requirement to take to the organization you select. The organization will sign the letter accepting you to work at that site. This letter must be returned to the Court before promotion to Phase V. You will have to complete 10 hours per month for the first 4 months you are in Phase V. Each time you work you will document your hours by having your supervisor at the volunteer site sign your attendance sheet with the hours worked, the date you worked and their contact information. You are required to bring this documentation to every Court review. Failure to document hours or complete the required hours may delay your graduation.

Please contact a member of your treatment team if you have any questions or concerns. Please sign below to indicate you understand these requirements and have processed them with your counselor.

PARTICIPANT

DATE

COUNSELOR

DATE