

Cinco Ranch High School

Cougars Achieving Through Service

As related to the Portrait of a KISD Graduate, the district wants to instill certain knowledge and traits into every student so that when they graduate, they will enter society as well-educated, conscientious citizens.

One way to accomplish this is to highlight the importance of giving back to the community. The “Cougars Achieving Through Service (CATS)” program has been designed to achieve this goal.

CRHS students participating in this program will:

- Observe that learning takes place everywhere
- Explore learning on their own
- Become active problem solvers and critical thinkers
- Become a resource to their community
- Become adults with feelings, values, and beliefs
- See the school as a helpful part of the community
- See the disciplines taught in school integrated into life’s work

The outcomes for this program are:

- Communication skills
- Leadership skills
- Reliable working skills
- A sense of caring and belonging
- Awareness of community needs
- Ability to follow directions
- Possess realistic ideas about the workplace

Cougars Achieving Through Service (CATS) GUIDELINES

All students are encouraged to participate in service activities. Underclassmen will be recognized at the annual School Awards Ceremony. Seniors will wear a white honor cord at graduation.

GRADE LEVEL REQUIREMENTS

- **Freshmen** must complete a minimum of 10 hours of documented community and/or school service. Service for CRHS may be completed in full.
- **Sophomores** must complete a minimum of 20 hours of documented community and/or school service. Service for CRHS will be limited to 15 hours.
- **Juniors** must complete a minimum of 40 hours of documented community and/or school service. Service for CRHS will be limited to 20 hours.
- **Seniors** must complete a minimum of 60 hours of documented community and/or school service. Service for CRHS will be limited to 30 hours.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Community service hours must be completed between April 1 and March 31 of the following year.
- Volunteer hours earned through school/community organizations may be documented for this program; however, these hours must be done outside the student's home unless pre-approved by the grade-level principal and cannot include any activities for which pay is received.
- Fundraising activities for any school organization will not count as community service.
- 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students are allowed to receive hours for project grad activities.
SENIORS MAY NOT RECEIVE HOURS FROM PROJECT GRADUATION ACTIVITIES.
- Church Worship activities during worship hour are not considered community service. Such activities include singing in the choir, participating on the worship team, and/or playing in the praise band.
- Church activities completed outside the worship hour, such as teaching Sunday school, babysitting for support groups, working on mission trips, teaching/decorating for Vacation Bible School, and lights and sounds for church events will be counted for CATS service hours.
- Students may not receive credit for more than 30 hours in any one service project.
- The documented hours must come from at least **two** separate activities.
- Freshmen may use one activity source for their hours.
- Students may not count more than six hours per day.
- No travel time may be included.
- A "Report Form" must be completed for each day or activity completed. If service takes place on multiple days, complete one Report Form for each 6 hours (maximum of five reports for 30-hour limit on one activity).
- Report Form signatures must be from someone other than a family member.
- Students must turn in a 3-ring binder that should include the following information:
 - Cover sheet (labeled with CATS and your name)
 - "CATS Hours Summary" sheet with verification signatures and telephone numbers.
 - A neatly written "CATS Service Report Form" for each activity completed or one Report Form for each 6 hours of the same activity. (Answers should be written in complete thoughts and should demonstrate insights and lessons learned from the experience.)
 - Optional journal entries describing the activities (These may include pictures, writings, memorabilia, etc.)

- Notebooks must be neatly kept and well presented. Only hours that have been documented will be accepted. Please copy additional forms from the samples in this packet.
- Notebooks must be turned in by the Friday of the **FIRST WEEK IN APRIL** to the appropriate grade level principal.
- Any unique circumstances which do not fall under these guidelines may be discussed with the appropriate grade level principal.

INFORMATION

Students needing additional forms and additional information about volunteer opportunities may access the Cinco Ranch web site through: <http://www.katyisd.org>

Click on “Student Resources,” then “CATS” for guidelines and forms. Also, click on “Volunteer” for service opportunities at Cinco Ranch High School and in the community.

CONTACTS

The current CATS Liaisons for each grade level are listed below and you may contact them with questions:

(Seniors) Ms. Patrice McKenna Cats2010@earthlink.net

(Juniors) Ms. Marita Garcia christian88@earthlink.net

(Sophomores) Mrs. Stacy Ricotta sricotta@comcast.net