

Defining Volunteer Hours for GCU Reporting

GCU asks lodge members to report their events and volunteer hours because it is crucial information for our mission and our lawful obligation as a fraternal benefit society. GCU's impact is only as good as the lodge reports we receive every quarter. Please seriously consider the following guidelines for accurate reporting:

- There will now only be two categories for reporting events/activities and volunteer hours:
 1. Community Service
 2. Fraternal Fellowship & Support
- Community Service will be defined as assisting those in need or improving the community-at-large. Social activities that benefit a charity or cause will be considered community service. Examples: Helping Hands Day, clothing drive, spaghetti dinner fundraiser.
- Fraternal Social & Support will be defined as social, educational, cultural, religious, recreational, or patriotic activities; as well as activities necessary to maintain the local lodge, personal development of members, or those that advance our mission or build fellowship among members. Examples: holiday party, member recognition, junior activities.
- Report hours contributed by lodge members or others who work on projects directly sponsored by the local lodge.
- Round off hours to the nearest whole number i.e. 7.75 hours = 8 hours
- Estimate hours based on time spent actually performing a service to others and/or members attending, organizing, planning, travelling, and working events.
- Time spent assisting at your parish (at times other than during church services) can be claimed as volunteer hours if it is truly a free will contribution of a member's time and efforts to the church. If you receive any type of compensation for the service(s) you provide, then you are not volunteering. These hours can be recorded in the Fraternal Fellowship and Support area of the Volunteer Reporting form.
- Counting the number of events is also important; an event will be defined as a lodge fraternalism function or a lodge-sponsored gathering of two or more members. See above definitions for appropriate category.
- Note: we track total dollars spent by the lodge on each category; disbursement amounts are taken from the financial reports.
- When notes are unclear about number of events, volunteer hours or financial disbursements, our best judgement is used.