



Champions for CHARACTER

Service-learning is a great way to instill good character and help the community. Has your school completed a service-learning project that has enhanced the curriculum and positively impacted students and the community? If so, apply to be recognized as a **2026 Champion for Character!**

Up to four schools will be recognized for their work in service learning at the **May 20th St. Louis Cardinals baseball game**. This recognition will include a **banner**, the opportunity for representatives from your school to be **on the field** for a pre-game ceremony, and **200 tickets to the game** against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

2026 Champions for Character: Celebrating Service-Learning Application Form

School Name: _____ District: _____
 Contact Person: _____ Title: _____
 Phone/ Ext.: _____ Email: _____

Applications must be emailed by the end of day on **March 26th, 2026**.

Instructions:

***Answer the following in no more than two (2) 8-1/2"x11" pages (typed):**

- Briefly summarize one of your school's service-learning projects.
- What leadership opportunities do students have in the 5 components of service learning (investigation, preparation, implementation, reflection, and demonstration)?
- Describe how the curriculum is integrated into your service-learning project.
- How is reflection an ongoing part of the project?
- How has this service-learning project met the needs of the community?

***Include up to five (5) pages of supporting materials that show the impact of service learning at your school.** You may include photos of the program in action, sample projects, reflection piece(s), responses from the community, news articles, etc.

I/we attest to the statements in this application and submit it for award consideration.

Contact Person: _____ Signature: _____
 Principal: _____ Signature: _____

Please submit application along with this cover sheet to Debbie Rusert @ drusert@characterplus.org

Champions of Character Service Learning Rubric

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Curriculum Integration	Comprehensive curricular integration across one or more disciplines with clear, intentional connections to learning objectives	Partial curricular integration	Minimal curricular integration	No intentional curricular integration
Authentic Service Learning	Project includes all 5 components of service learning (investigation, preparation, implementation, reflection, demonstration)	Project includes 3 or 4 components	Project includes 2 components	Project includes 1 component
Student Leadership	Vast majority of students are actively leading the project	Majority of students are substantially involved in leadership	Students have limited leadership opportunities	Students are passive recipients with minimal involvement
Reflection Process	All students involved in full reflection of the project, the impact on the community, and the impact on self	Many students involved in full reflection <u>or</u> evidence of only 2 of the 3 components of full reflection	Some students involved in full reflection <u>or</u> evidence of only 1 of the components of full reflection	No evidence of reflection
Community Needs Alignment	Transformative project fully addresses community needs with collaborative solutions	Project is clearly responsive to identified community needs	Project is somewhat aligned with community needs	Project is disconnected from genuine community needs