

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Gold Level Project



In order to be eligible for Gold Level Status using the Community Service project, your club must provide the project evidence outlined below through the online Gold Level Application webform. All evidence submitted **must be work completed by club members!** Documentation created by a club leader (with the exception of photos taken by a club leader) will not be accepted.

Evidence Part 1: Planning & Preparation

The presentation of evidence of planning and preparation for your service project could look different depending on what your club decides to do. However, for the purposes of Gold Level Status, the two elements below are **required** in your club's project submission:

- A brief written summary of the project, which must include (1) a **description** of the project, (2) **who** the community is that your project will benefit, and (3) **why** this project will benefit this community.
- Any **documents*** that are created/used in the planning process for the project. Some examples: a flyer for a math night, a volunteer sign-up sheet for a tutoring program, a selection of problems to be used in a solve-a-thon, a copy of an informational email sent to the relevant community about your project, notes from a planning meeting.

As we are requiring documentation to be submitted that demonstrates planning and preparation, **please be sure that your club members are aware of this requirement before starting on their project! Club members should keep this in mind as they have any planning meetings for or conversations about their project.*

Evidence Part 2: Project Execution

Regardless of the nature of the project, **at least one photo** of the execution of your club's service project is **required***. This photo should show club members in action. Some examples: club members actively tutoring younger students or peers, club members leading an activity at a math night, club members working on math problems during a solve-a-thon.

**MATHCOUNTS will not share or post any project photos without your (the club leader's) consent. If your club's project is selected to be highlighted on the MATHCOUNTS website, we will reach out to you to receive the necessary permission. Club leaders reserve the right to decline this opportunity.*

Evidence Part 3: Reflection

Club members **must provide a written reflection** on their service project experience. Your club could write their reflection together as a group, or each club member could write their own reflection—this is up to you and your club members to decide. Either way, each reflection should answer **at least 3 of the 6 questions** below:

- How do you feel the service project went? Do you feel it was helpful to the community your club was targeting? Why or why not?
- What is one thing you learned in preparing for and executing your club's service project? How might you apply this lesson in the future?
- Describe your favorite moment from working on your club's service project. Why did this moment stand out to you?
- Describe a challenge your club faced while working on the service project. How did you address this challenge?
- What would you do differently if you were to complete this project all over again? Why?
- What is one piece of advice you would give to the next group doing a service project in your community?

Project Submission Specifics

To be eligible for Gold Level Status, your club **must have earned Silver Level Status first**. The Gold Level Application webform will open on **December 1st**. We are no longer accepting offline paper applications or emailed/mailed projects for Gold Level Status. In the online webform, in addition to basic information about your club, you'll be asked to submit:

- (Optional) A **photo** to be displayed on the Silver and Gold Level Clubs recognition page of the MATHCOUNTS website, along with your club's name and state. This could be a photo of your club members, your Gold Level project, or your school's/group's logo. If you already submitted a photo in your Silver Level Application, you'll have the option to use the same photo. If you choose not to submit a photo, a National Math Club logo will be displayed for your club. To ensure the photo can display correctly on our website, please submit a photo of the size **1200 x 800 pixels**.
- Only **one document containing all evidence** of your club's Gold Level project. Our Gold Level Application webform accepts several file types, so we recommend combining all of your club's project evidence into whichever file type is easiest for your club to use (PowerPoint, PDF, Microsoft Word, etc.).

Community Service Project Examples

If your club has an idea for a math-based service project that differs from the examples provided below, your club should feel free to pursue it! However, we wanted to provide some ideas based on successful service projects we've received in the past.

- Your club could put on a **math night** for your school or local community. We've seen math nights with a variety of math activity stations, using National Math Club materials and/or other math resources. We've seen themed math nights (for example, pi-themed events around Pi Day on March 14). These events could be for students only or could include the greater community. There is a lot of flexibility within this type of Community Service project!
- Your club could establish a **sustained tutoring program**. Perhaps your club's middle school peers need support in math, or younger elementary-aged students could benefit from your club's help. Successful tutoring programs we've seen have spanned anywhere from 2 months to a full school year, with students working once per week or once every other week!
- Your club could plan and participate in a **solve-a-thon**! In this type of service project, club members collect pledges from family, friends, community members, etc. (A pledge, for example, might be 25 cents per question answered correctly.) Club members would then solve a set of problems in a predetermined amount of time, collect the pledged donations based on how many questions they answered correctly, and donate the earnings to a charity of their choice.
- There are **lots of ways to get creative** with this! For example, we once had a club build a raised flower bed for a local community organization. They measured the size of the plot to determine the flower bed's dimensions, then calculated how much wood would be needed to build it and how much mulch would be needed to fill it. Once the flower bed was built, they determined how many plants could fit in the flower bed based on how much space was needed for each plant's roots.

While MATHCOUNTS understands and appreciates the importance of all types of community service, the **Gold Level Community Service project must be math-based**. Unless a compelling explanation of a very intentional math tie-in is provided, a service project like volunteering at an animal shelter, for example, would not be considered a math-based community service project and would therefore not be eligible for Gold Level Status. If in doubt about your club's project, please feel free to reach out to info@mathcounts.org with any questions!