**Community Service for Scholarships**

Community engagement describes collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. The purpose of community engagement is the partnership of college and university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.

Community Service is a subset of community engagement that focuses on the civic responsibility to help improve critical societal issues and contribute to the public good. Community service can refer to projects that certain organizations perform, but only if you are doing some type of outreach within the community. We encourage that, in addition to your hometown, you take time to consider Terre Haute and the Wabash Valley as part of your community.

Examples of community service include:

- events sponsored by the Center for Community Engagement, including: Fall and Spring Donaghy Day, Alternative Spring Break, MLK Jr. Day of Service, and Stop and Serves
- delivering meals to the homes of older adults
- tutoring and mentoring children through an organized program
- assisting with the physical maintenance of a community center
- reading to a pre-school class
- building a trail
- giving tours at a museum
- volunteering at a food pantry

Excluded from this policy are:

- Service provided through an organization where the only recipients of the service are the members the organization (i.e. serving as a small group leader or working in the nursery at your church, attending a committee meeting for your sorority)
- Raising money for political groups or causes
- Attendance of social events and fundraisers for university organizations where the money raised only benefits that university organization (i.e. club or fraternity)
- Sycamore Ambassador activities that benefit the university exclusively
- Handing out flyers for an event

**Recording Community Service Hours in Treehouse**

Note: ALL service must be recorded in the Treehouse, even if you swiped in for a sponsored event. If service is not recorded CORRECTLY within ONE MONTH of the date of the event, it will NOT count toward the required hours. There are NO exceptions to this rule.
Treehouse access is through your portal using this tile-

Once in Treehouse select University Scholarship Office from your memberships:

After selecting University Scholarship Office, follow the link to the Community Service Hours form:
• Please fill-in all required spaces—a detailed description of your service is required and should include the date, time, what was done, and who participated in/benefited from the event
• Provide a reference with email so that your hours can be verified (required).
• Feel free to include a signed document or picture of you performing community service--upload the file under “Proof of Participation.” We love seeing our scholars in action!

Note: If you have not received an email letting you know if your hours have been approved or denied within 14 business days (with the exception of break periods) be sure to check and make sure no comments have been left on your submission asking for additional details. If you do not see any comments please email scholarships@indstate.edu to confirm that your submission has been received.