



Impact Hour Verification Policy for Volunteer Service

There are two stakeholders authorized to verify impact hours of volunteer service on the RockServe digital community engagement platform. In order of priority, these include:

1. **PRIMARY (Direct) Verifiers:** Official representatives (volunteer coordinators, directors, staff) of community-based organizations.

Rationale: For purposes of promoting mutuality in campus-community engagement, as well as honoring and legitimizing community voice as those who can bear witness to students' service in the community, **80% of ALL student impact hours of volunteer service at the departmental, program, and institutional level should be verified by PRIMARY verifiers.**

2. **SECONDARY (Indirect) Verifiers:** Faculty and staff currently employed by Slippery Rock University acting in the interest of a community-based organization(s).

Rationale: In circumstances where DIRECT verifiers are not able to bear witness to students' service directly, impacts may be verified by SRU faculty or staff serving as SECONDARY (Indirect) verifiers in the interest of the community organization(s). **No more than 20% of ALL student impact hours of volunteer service at the departmental, program, and institutional level should be verified by SECONDARY verifiers.**

Additional Impact Verification Rules

RULE 1: At no time may students' impact hours of volunteer service logged on RockServe be verified by other SRU students.

The **ONLY EXCEPTION** to this rule is in circumstances of a student with permission to serve as a **DESIGNATED (student) verifier** on behalf of a community organization. Designated verifiers are SRU students holding continuous and long-term community-based site placements (more than 100 hours per semester) and who have been asked to serve as a designated student verifier at the request of the organization for a specified period. Designated student verifiers must complete a verifiers privilege form and successfully complete the required RockServe training before they verify other students' impacts.

***Note:** The Office for Community-Engaged Learning reserves the right to appoint DESIGNATED student verifiers at the request of the Director for Community-Engaged Learning for purposes of RockServe outreach, education, and user support for campus and community stakeholders.*

RULE 2: Travel time to and from community-based sites where students are serving MAY NOT be included in impact hour verification requests and approvals.

Rationale: Verifiable impact hours of service are based on the commitment and delivery of time at or on behalf of a community organization or agency. Travel is considered a necessary part of the engagement; as it would be if one were going to work, except work does not let one clock in when they leave home. Campus departments and offices are encouraged to look for ways to support student travel and remove transportation barriers such as providing transportation services directly or providing student reimbursements to community-based service activities. Faculty teaching HIP community engaged learning courses are encouraged to leverage grants through the Office for Community-engaged Learning to support student access to community-based project sites. Any individual, departmental, program, or institutional grants seeking to support any kind of community engaged learning should have funding allocations for student access and transportation built into them.