

Student Organization Community Service Award Nomination--Sample

This year, I am nominating Zoom Service Group (ZSG) for the Student Organization Community Service Award. ZSG, a service organization comprised of outstanding Golden Rams from West Chester University, strives to serve the campus and the broader community in any way possible, even in remote times. The members of ZSG share a deep passion for service and see their purpose as making the university and the broader community a better place through giving valuable time to those in need, especially during a pandemic. Members of ZSG host weekly meetings to brainstorm unique ways they can help others from a remote or socially distanced modality. The meetings serve as an outlet for students who feel that they are not as connected to campus life and help those form relationships with students from their own homes. These ideas and service opportunities include making 150 thank you cards for teachers and medical staff, creating 6 interactive videos for residents in nursing homes, and serving 6 meals to the homeless population in the community, among other things.

ZSG is making a name for themselves in the West Chester community. When there is a need in town, or a lack of volunteers for a local initiative, the community knows that they can – and often do – reach out to ZSG for last minute help. Through these constant acts of service with the community, members have the opportunity to build relationships with individuals they collaborate with often (whether remotely or socially distanced), creating meaningful memories and ties to not only West Chester as a university, but the town as a whole. Members also are fortunate enough to learn from these individuals and their circumstances, allowing them to become more knowledgeable and aware of those in need right in their own neighborhood. As a college student, it is easy to get lost in one's own hectic world and fail to recognize what is going on in the community around them. ZSG as an organization makes their presence known in the West Chester community and makes sure its members extend their service outside of themselves as students and to those who truly need it. They also do not plan on stopping at any time, even after the pandemic hopefully subsides in the uncertain future!

During the fall 2020 semester, the members of ZSG focused on creating a program to raise money for those that lost their jobs due to COVID-19 specifically in West Chester to give back to their community. They named this the Ram Relief Fund (RRF). Members used a good portion of their weekly meetings to plan this initiative and brainstorm fundraising ideas. Fundraising during a pandemic is difficult, as many people lost jobs, which is exactly the cause they were fundraising for. ZSG collaborated with WCU's Leadership Consultants to come up with remote fundraising ideas. Some of these included virtual raffle baskets, Instagram bingo board challenges, and canning in the borough of West Chester—all following the CDC COVID-19 guidelines of course. ZSG was able to raise about \$15,000 from their efforts which have been distributed to about 10 people so far. They plan on continuing these efforts and many more in the spring 2021 semester.

Overall, the members of ZSG pride themselves on service. They passionately give up their time to develop relationships with those in their community and have time and time again proved their reliability. They are the first to lend a helping hand when needed and do so with genuine kindness and interest. For these reasons, I believe ZSG is an exceptional nominee for the Student Organization Community Service Award.