

Citizenship ~~Community Service~~ Requirement

In the last issue, we asked for your opinions and input on the new community service requirement. Executive Committee has since created a proposal for this requirement, which was submitted to Honors Council on Monday December 13, 2005. At the time of printing,

Honors Council had not made a decision on this proposal. However, we have here an outline of the proposal for you! Please bear in mind that changes have likely occurred and that you will be notified of the actual requirement guidelines once they are in place.

The proposal written by Adam Epstein '08, our Volunteer Coordinator, set out the requirement in this way: "Beginning with the class of 2009, all Honors Forum members will be required to complete a citizenship project. This project will provide Honors students with an opportunity to pursue a passion outside of the classroom or as an extension of a classroom experience, while also involving a larger community, within or without Skidmore College.

The project should be process-oriented and intellectually rigorous; it will require considerable initiative, planning, organization, leadership, and personal reflection. This requirement is proposed with the belief that all Honors students should use their talents to contribute to campus and community life, while also pursuing and sharing their passions as well as creatively and actively developing their intellect and planning skills.

This experience is meant to stretch students creatively



Adam Epstein '08, Exec Co's Volunteer Coordinator, penned the Citizenship Requirement proposal.

and intellectually beyond the scope of a normal academic or extracurricular undertaking on this scale; students are encouraged to use this opportunity to significantly pursue their passions and dreams. The project may also act as a preparatory experience for the student's Senior Capstone."

The first big change is in the name: no longer a community service requirement, but a citizenship requirement. This was done in response to comments made at our Forum meeting in November and the responses from the last newsletter. We also want our requirement to reflect an organization committed to the intellectual life of Skidmore and our members. Therefore, "the project must be intellectually rigorous.

The project should challenge the student to reflect, think critically, and demonstrate initiative. Mindless or clerical work is not acceptable." That being said, this project cannot be part of a course, or something done for academic credit: no double counting! The proj-

Requirement at a glance:

So, now let's get down to the nitty-gritty: how does someone go about doing this requirement? Here is an outline of how the semester will look:

The project proposal will be submitted to a committee made up of students from Executive Committee and the general membership, and faculty/staff from Honors Council. This committee will also review the projects at the end and determine if the requirement was met.

The requirement must be completed between the second semester freshman year and the end of junior year. The minimum amount of time the project must encompass is 15 hours (including planning and prep). The project can take more time and extend beyond one semester; these are just the minimums.

ect can grow out of something done in a class, but you must demonstrate that it is different than what you are doing for credit. As voted on in the Forum meeting, this project can take place on campus or off campus and must benefit some group or community in some way.

The scope can be on the college, local, national or international level! The project could have several components working at different levels, "but there should be one overriding theme that pervades the entire process."

The final change comes in

You are required to keep a log of everything you do and the time involved.

At midterms, the student must submit a mid-term report consisting of a reflective piece either as a short essay or as reflections on each log entry (i.e. journaling).

At the end or the semester, you must submit a final reflection piece to the committee. This can be in any media and as creative as you want, but must convey the "major accomplishments, outcomes, personal reactions, and [a] self-critique" of the project.

building a greater sense of community within the Honors Forum. While some of these projects might choose to help this, part of the proposed requirement is to meet with other students fulfilling their requirements and discuss the process, projects, and in general, bond.

To this end, "each semester, the Honors Forum will offer three informal dinners for everyone completing their Citizenship Requirement in that term. Students engaged in their special project are required to attend at least two of these events."

Upcoming Honors Forum Events

The Honor Forum Newsletter staff would like to wish you all a splendid holiday, and use this moment to shamelessly plug the various events scheduled for next semester.

On February 13, the Honors Forum will be sponsoring the BOCES Talent Unlimited Recognition Ceremony for regional high school students whose work will be included in this year's publication of the annual art and literary journal *Talent Unlimited*.

The Honors Forum will hold its spring induction ceremony on the 17th of February.

Don't forget about the Jon A. Ramsey Annual Honors Forum Lecture, though the

date is still to be determined. Keep an ear out.

Shades of Gray will be on February 21 and 22. Come explore the gray areas of grade inflation and grade equity at Skidmore College with the interactive panel discussion, "Making the Grade."

The Academic Festival is scheduled for May 3. Now is the time to begin your proposals. Seriously, why wouldn't you go? It's like, *the Honors Forum thing*.

On Friday, May 19, the Commencement Reception for Honors Forum graduates will be held.

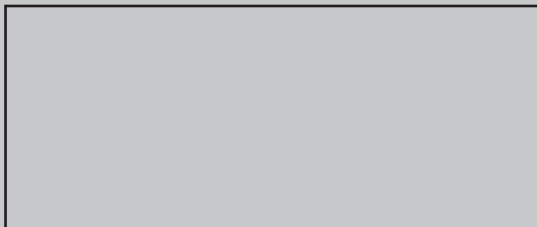


FORUM FUN! WORD SEARCH

Find the winter words from the list below!

by Samantha Morrison '08

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| blizzard | icicle |
| cider | scarf |
| cocoa | shovel |
| cold | skate |
| freeze | ski |
| ginger-bread | sled |
| gloves | snowflake |
| ice | snowman |
| | tea |



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e d k b e a k n k p o i k m c s k h a r c s d i l
e i d s o l l k i b w t r i h f k i p w e o n e p
c o t n p g s f l o l d t e a l b c i p b i l p o
i c j k o s c a r f m o s s c u f v r l m t y d a
d t k a f a d t r o w m a n y a g w i b m d b o n
e g a e s b j o n r y o p y i t e z t v e c i g d
r e t a s o n r a u c s p l j o z i g s h s e c i
d e c n l j k a f m n f l i y a e f p e c d p y d
o i r g e r b c k h f j e e r s a q v e l p g z q
b m k d d t e k a m g e n d f s n o w m a n o l p
k e l m o g h g o h k i d b i z l f c k m j n g e
f g r u y p d d s b x c n n t e c a n o y i o s d
g s n h p e t a k s b m a g o i o j k s c r g h e
w q r k h f e s d t w b a d e s p e a h a h w o b
r c c e i i k i k l r s l i r r o e j u n h g v v
g e h k d n o l g e n h g d u n b l i z z e p e o
t l s w p g n n c c a s z g h r e r h c g n i l k
a i h k l e j c x i g l o o p e m i e o l n c a n
a z r f n j s a m a n t h a m y o r s a i l a w a
d b b a n i e p l f r e e z e n d e a y d l p a u
h z o h c m v e w y a d e l c i c i e t r a o l b
a d m e s m o o t h o r t a s b j l y e r s i o
c f d e k e l a l f w o n s a d o b a m g z t n i
r c z e v d g a p i t r o w v e g c o f a f i n m
    
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