



# T.O.U.C.H. PROGRAM

Translating Osteopathic Understanding Into Community Health



# What is TOUCH?

TOUCH encourages us to observe a basic tenet of osteopathic philosophy:

A commitment to improving the health of our communities through *service*.





# TOUCH Hours 2016-2017

Last year, students at osteopathic medical colleges across the nation accumulated:

**227, 261.08 HOURS**



# Why TOUCH?

Through this program, *YOU* are recognized for your hard work and dedication in serving your surrounding communities during your years spent in medical school.





# TOUCH Logistics

- TOUCH year: April 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year
- Hours must be submitted within 30 days from the event
- Hours must be completed following matriculation into medical school, so hours completed by first year medical students during the summer before matriculation are not valid.
- Awards:
  - *Silver recognition: 50+ hours*
  - *Gold recognition: 100+ hours*
  - *Platinum recognition: the most hours within our BCOM community*





# Participation in TOUCH

- A minimum completion of **fifty (50) hours of community service** will be required to receive credit for the TOUCH program
- A record of completed hours must be submitted to the College of Osteopathic Medicine Student Government (COSGP) both online and in paper form
- Each time you complete an activity you must fill out your paper log and have the event coordinator sign off on your hours
- You must submit your volunteer hours online for a specific event within 30 days of completing the activity
- Further instructions will follow via email regarding how to submit your hours online



# TOUCH Event Documentation Form

This form is for your records only. You will not be able to upload.

Date of Event: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Event Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Event Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State)  
 Event Project Manager  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email or Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Event: Description:

Type of service (choose up to 3 types)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> International (please complete International Section) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports and Recreation       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Osteopathic Education                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Welfare  | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Services          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts/Culture/Heritage                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth   | <input type="checkbox"/> Disabilities                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate   | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Conservation                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Elderly                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Maintenance                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify _____ |

Hours ( ¼ increments)

TOUCH Hours \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer Hours: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Planning hours \_\_\_\_\_ Event hours: \_\_\_\_\_

## International Page

- Where did you participate in international service?
  - Rural
  - Urban
  - Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_
- How long did you participate in this international experience?
  - Less than one week
  - 1 – 2 weeks
  - 2 – 4 weeks
  - Greater than 4 weeks
- How was your trip financed?
  - Primarily through personal funding (fundraising, out-of-pocket, etc)
  - My host institution provides a stipend/grant that covers part of the total cost
  - My host institution provides a stipend/grant that covers the majority of the total cost
  - I received funding through an external grant or application-based stipend
- Did you receive academic credit for international experience? (Did you receive credit as a rotation during your third or fourth year?)
  - Yes - I received elective credit during 1st/2nd year
  - Yes - I received rotation credit during 3rd/4th year
  - No
- Did you conduct research during your trip?
  - Yes
  - No
- Did your experience influence the likelihood that you will seek out a residency program in a Primary Care specialty? (Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, OB/GYN, etc)
  - Yes
  - No
- Please indicate all that apply to your international experience
  - My experience was organized and facilitated primarily by my host institution.
  - My international experience was organized and facilitated primarily by a student.
  - I participated in my international experience with DOCARE International.
  - I participated in pre-trip trainings to prepare for serving a community with a different culture.
  - Post-trip, I participated in some sort of reflection (group-facilitated discussion, wrote a blog, poster presentation, etc)



# Event Planning

- Credit for planning a community service activity will be given  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour for every hour involved in the preparation of materials and setup for an actual event, up to 15 hrs per year
  - *For example, you are organizing a blood pressure check drive and it takes 5 hours to organize venues, volunteers, gather equipment, etc – you will be eligible for 2.5 TOUCH hours*
  - *Administrative tasks during the event (checking students in, registration) are valid for full consideration.*





# TOUCH Approved Events



- For the purposes of the TOUCH program, “Community Service” will be defined as any activity that works to improve the health and wellness of a community outside of the medical school coursework.
- The spirit of this program is to get involved with the community and spread the DO name and philosophy.
- Community service activities can be associated SOM student organizations or external organizations.
  - *Blood Pressure Check Drive*
  - *Senior Health Fair*
  - *Mobile Clinic*
  - *Global Health*



# TOUCH Non-Qualifying Events



- **Leadership responsibilities** in student organization will not count towards TOUCH hours unless those responsibilities involve participation in a specific community service activity.
  - *Normal student organization activities (such as meetings, bringing in speakers, etc.) are not considered community service.*
- **Fundraising**: simply collecting money for a philanthropic cause will not suffice as an “activity/event/community service.”
- TOUCH credit will not be given for **volunteering in research or shadowing**, as TOUCH is meant to encourage activity in the community
- **Personal favors** such as driving someone to an appointment or helping someone move is admirable, but ineligible for TOUCH.



# Questions

## Contact your

BCOM TOUCH Coordinator

*\*\*Please start the subject of your email with 'TOUCH'\*\**