

Meant to provide a wealth of opportunities and experiences on a variety of levels, the Compass student civic engagement development model is designed to lead our students on the road to a life of engaged citizenship. The model is composed of three tiers.

- The first is ***Community Service***, a chance for the students to explore their options for volunteering with an emphasis on benefits to the community. There is little intentional reflective learning at this level but rather an opportunity for students to be exposed to helping in the community and getting into the “service habit”. Examples of this are the annual Days of Service or preparing meals at the Community Lunch Program.
- The second tier is ***Civic Engagement***, where students develop a deeper connection with their service work, gaining as much from the experience as the people they are working with. Reflecting on connections between the service and other aspects of the student’s life is more intentional at this level. Examples of this include service-learning classes, being an America Reads tutor, or participating on an Alternative Break trip.
- Tier three is ***Civic Leadership***. At this level a student who has gained experience at the other levels now puts that expertise to work organizing resources to tackle an issue in the community. The goal is meaningful change and developing the student’s leadership abilities. Examples of this are Jane Erickson ‘07’s work establishing ***HWS Votes!*** and the HWS Bonner Leader program, where students are helping to implement key components of the CCESL strategic plan in the community.
- These tiers point the student toward a life of ***Engaged Citizenship***, where service and community involvement is not just something a person does but a core component of who they are, no matter what their career. This individual serves on boards, gets involved with their children’s activities, is an informed voter, writes letters to the editor, volunteers for non-profits, etc.