

2009 – 2010 PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM



Canyon Ridge PTA will sponsor the "President's Volunteer Service Award Program" for the 2009-2010 school year. **ALL** Canyon Ridge students are eligible and encouraged to participate. Even students that have never volunteered before are eligible to earn the President’s Volunteer Service Award.

The President’s Volunteer Service Award is a Presidential recognition program created to recognize the tens of millions of Americans who have made a sustained commitment to volunteer service. The Award is given to individuals that have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service and civic participation over the course of a 12-month period. The goal of this program is to help our children become more aware of our community and to help others in need; school recognition is secondary.

Qualification Guidelines

Beginning May 1, 2009, students should begin tracking their community service hours on the attached service log. To earn this award, you must have no less than 50 hours of community service by April 30, 2010. To be recognized, service activities should meet national or community needs in the areas of youth achievement, parks and open spaces, healthy communities, and public safety and emergency response. **All volunteer activities should be unpaid and should not include efforts completed for the student's immediate family.** (*i.e. taking care of sibling...*)

Some examples of Volunteer Activities include and are not limited to the following:

Youth Achievement -Mentoring, coaching, tutoring, improving literacy in areas such as reading and finance, and volunteering to keep young people engaged academically in education (examples: reading buddies, CHAMPS).

Parks & Open Spaces - Includes volunteer efforts to conserve and protect our parklands and gardens, neighborhood cleanups and creating safe playgrounds.

Healthy Communities - Includes volunteer efforts to help the elderly, disabled, diseased, hungry or homeless, and to improve the economic health of the community. These could include volunteering for health/nutrition education services, immunization campaigns, hospital support, blood drives, veterans outreach and working with local public health programs.

Public Safety & Emergency Response - Includes volunteer efforts for individuals and families to make their homes and their communities safer. It includes programs like Citizen Corps, Neighborhood Watch and Safety Patrol.

There are three levels of the Award and are based on the hours of service completed. Each award recipient receives a personalized certificate of achievement, a congratulatory letter from the President of the U.S. and an official President's Award pin. Qualifications for awards are as follows:

- Bronze Award 50 – 74 hours
- Silver Award 75 – 99 hours
- Gold Award 100 or more hours

Other volunteer opportunities can be found by visiting <http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/>

The Canyon Ridge PTA thanks you for your interest and assistance in helping make your community a better place.

For opportunities to help in your city/community, we've listed a few websites. Most organizations/groups require a parent/guardian to attend with a student/youth, therefore, we recommend you and your parents contact these groups directly for more information & details.

- <https://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/tgact/volopps/volunteer.cfm>
- <http://www.sarecross.org/>
- <http://www.unitedwaysatx.org/>
- <http://www.safoodbank.org/>
- <http://www.volunteermatch.org/bymsa/m7240/c20/opp1.html>
- <http://www.charityguide.org/volunteer/environmental-protection.htm>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

1. What kinds of service counts and what doesn't?

- Canyon Ridge PTA awards hours based on the time a student volunteers.
- For any activity OVER 15 HOURS, the student must submit a short paragraph describing the activity.
- Volunteers are limited to 75 hours per single activity.
- Community Service hours should be documented at the time they are performed - not as a long-term endorsement at the end of the year.
- Donating a can of food for the SA Food Bank, donating a toy for a Toy Drive etc.. @school counts towards an hour of community service.

Does Count

- Hours benefiting the entire community, not just one member of the community or a for-profit business. Therefore, we do not count hours earned babysitting or helping your immediate family. (For example: babysitting for your sister/brother, helping work at Mom or Dad's office).
- 1 hour of service if you participate in a school sponsored event. (For example: If you take a can(s) of food for the school Food Drive, could count for 1 hour of service for that activity).

Does Not Count

- Do not count hours spent working for the election of a particular political candidate.
- Do not count hours earned babysitting or helping your immediate family. (for example: babysitting for your sister/brother, helping work at Mom or Dad's office)

2. Is there a certain form to fill out?

Students should use the service logs available in the front office..

3. Will I still be recognized if I do not complete a minimum of 50 hours?

Canyon Ridge will recognize ALL students that earn less than the 50 hr. minimum.

Questions may be referred to (Canyon Ridge PTA PVSA Chairperson).