



Volunteer Tennessee
2021 Award of Excellence for Volunteerism and Service-Learning
Recognition for the 2020-21 school year

Announcement:

Volunteer Tennessee is pleased to announce the call for applications to the 2021 Volunteer Tennessee Award of Excellence program. This program is intended to provide recognition for K-12 schools (both private and public) engaged in volunteerism and service during the 2020-21 academic year.

The Award of Excellence provides an opportunity for schools to be recognized for outstanding work in the area of service, service-learning, and volunteerism.

The purpose of the recognition is to promote youth engagement in service. Critical areas of focus defined by Volunteer Tennessee as high quality educational opportunities are food security, mentorship of school-aged children, and homelessness. Participants in ALL focus areas are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Recognition:

Schools will be recognized at the 2022 Tennessee Conference on Volunteerism and Service Learning on in Franklin, TN. If selected for the Award of Excellence, schools will receive a certificate signed by the Volunteer Tennessee Executive Director and Board of Director's Chairperson. Recipients of this award will be photographed and highlighted in the Volunteer Tennessee newsletter and social media channels as well as at their respective schools.

Application:

In order for a school to be considered for the Volunteer Tennessee Award of Excellence for the 2020-21 school year, the school must complete the electronic application. You can find a list of the application elements on the next page. To submit an Award of Excellence application, click [here](#). The deadline to apply is **September 10, 2021**. Schools will be notified by December 1, 2021.

Application Elements:

The application for Volunteer Tennessee's Award of Excellence Program must be completed online. But, please review the questions below prior to completing your online application. All answers are required except questions 6, 16-18 and 21.

SCHOOL AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Q1: Please provide the following information for your school.: School Name, Address, City/Town, State, Zip/Postal Code, Total Enrollment, Grade Levels

Q2: Please provide the contact information for the person submitting this application.: Contact Name, Contact Title, Email Address, Phone Number

Q3: Is your school a previous recipient of the Volunteer Tennessee Award of Excellence (formerly School Seal of Approval)?

2020-21 VOLUNTEERISM AND SERVICE-LEARNING OVERVIEW

Q4: List community service, service learning, and volunteer activities which have occurred at the school during the 2019 – 20 year involving students/faculty/staff. Please give the name of the group sponsoring the activity.

Q5: Please provide an estimate on the total number of hours served by students for the 2020-21 school year. Please use whole numbers.

Q6: If applicable, list the school organizations and clubs that support service. Your list can include school organizations and clubs that have service hour requirements for members and/or engage youth in service. Examples include, but are not limited to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, Interact, after-school clubs, etc. The class itself can count as the organization/club for elementary and middle schools.

SCHOOL-WIDE SERVICE PROJECT DETAILS

Q7: Description of student/faculty/staff involvement in at least one school-wide service project during the 2020-21 school year.

- Give a brief (2 – 5 sentence) description describing the general nature of the service for each school-wide project listed. If a specific group led the project(s), please include this information.

Q8: Which category of service would best describe the project(s)?

- Direct service: youth volunteered and had direct contact with the people served.
- In-direct service: youth collected or constructed items without direct contact with beneficiaries.
- Advocacy: writing letters in support of a cause, awareness campaign, etc.

Q9: Describe student involvement in planning and implementing the project(s).

Q10: Describe the impact of the project(s) on the school and community.

Q11: Describe the impact the project(s) had on the students. Please include quotations and reflections of students.

SCHOOL STAFF AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Q12: List faculty/administrators/staff who volunteered outside of school (church, 4-H, scouts, volunteer coach, recreation, etc.) during the 2020-21 school year. Listing should include the person's first and last name, name of organization(s) served, and type of activity.

Q13: Please provide an estimate on the total number of volunteer hours (outside of school) by faculty/administrators/staff for the 2020-21 school year. Please use whole numbers.

Q14: List community members and agencies that provided professional or educational services to the school. Include classroom, club and school-wide activities. Examples of activities include, but are not limited to Lions Club sight testing, Red Cross training, Health Department, 4-H Clubs, reading programs, naturalist program, assembly/classroom speakers, etc.

Q15: Please provide an estimate on the total number of volunteer hours served at your school by community members and agencies for the 2020-21 school year. Please use whole numbers.

COVID-19 IMPACT

Q16: Describe the impact (if any) that COVID-19 had on your school's volunteer service, service-learning activities or engagement plans.

Q17: Were you able to work through any challenges related to COVID-19? Please describe.

Q18: Describe any service activities or projects that were conducted as a result of COVID 19 and/or to support COVID-19 relief efforts. Activities could include but not limited to reading to others online, donation drives, sewing face masks, sorting food, etc.)

ATTACHMENTS

Q19: Each school must supply a letter of support from its school administrator (principal or system administrator) indicating the school/district's commitment to service.

Q20: Please attach photographs documenting at least one service project or activity in which students participated.

Q21: You may include additional items to document a service project or activity in which students participated here. If you have more than one photograph or item that you would like to submit, please create a Word or PDF document to upload multiple photos. News articles with coverage of your service projects are also permissible. If you would like to include a video, please send to Shannon.Duke@tn.gov.