



## The 2017-2018 School Seal of Approval Honorees

In February of 2019, ten schools stretching across the state of Tennessee, received the Seal of Approval (renamed the Award of Excellence) for their exemplary service programs and events. These schools ranged in enrollment from 62 to 2,200 and included preK-12, elementary, middle and high schools. Each school demonstrated outstanding service in school-wide projects, individual endeavors, community building activities, and group activities.

Volunteer Tennessee's board of commissioners launched this program in 2017 to provide annual recognition for K-12 schools engaged in service, service-learning, and volunteerism with the purpose of promoting youth engagement in the improvement of their local communities.

Four of these schools earned the award for the second year: Fayette Academy (Somerville), Ivy Academy Chattanooga (Soddy-Daisy), Union STEM Elementary (Gallatin), and University School of Nashville (Nashville).



*University School of Nashville*



*Ivy Academy*



*Fayette Academy*

Principal Lance Taylor of Union STEM Elementary School in Gallatin commented that he was pleased that his school was being recognized for the second year, especially the “students who are big-time servants in our “Walk the Walk” outreach program.”

First year recipients were Beacon Academy (Ooltewah), Central Magnet School (Murfreesboro), Jefferson County High School (Dandridge), South Pittsburg High School (Pittsburg), Unaka High School (Elizabethton), and Whitwell High School (Whitwell).



*Whitwell High School*



*Unaka High School*



*South Pittsburg High School*

As an example of their student's commitment to service, the application from Central Magnet School's Assistant Principal, Michelle included a video of students collecting hundreds of items to send to students in at Key West High School following Hurricane Irma. [See the video and learn more about their Hurricane Irma donation project here.](#)



Volunteer Tennessee was honored to recognize these schools for their service and is excited to continue this recognition as the Award for Excellence. The application for schools to apply for the 2019 Award for Excellence is now open. Schools can find more info and apply by visiting Volunteer Tennessee's website at [www.volunteertennessee.net](http://www.volunteertennessee.net).

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[Volunteer Tennessee](http://www.volunteertennessee.net) is a 25 member bipartisan board appointed by the Governor to encourage volunteerism and community service. Volunteer Tennessee pursues its mission through administration of AmeriCorps grants, training and collaborations and coalitions with public and private organizations interested in volunteerism and service. Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).