South Winneshiek High School
Volunteer Service Program

Program Information

The Purple Cord Program is to recognize students throughout their high school career for their volunteerism in their community. This program is open to all students.

Hours Required

Starting with the class of 2015-2016

- The Class of 2016 must complete 40 hours by April 30, 2016
- The Class of 2017 must complete 80 hours by April 30, 2017
- The class of 2018 must complete 120 hours by April 30, 2018
- The Class of 2019 must complete 160 hours by April 30, 2019

After 2019, 160 hours will be mandatory for all students who wish to earn a purple cord award. If a student transfers into the high school during their high school career, he/she will be required to complete the hours indicated above that coincide with the year he/she transferred to South Winneshiek High School.

Hours can begin accumulating on June 1st of students' eighth grade year and finish accumulating on April 30th of the students' senior year.

It is encouraged that students complete 40 hours per year. However, students can accumulate the hours at any point to achieve 160 hours by graduation. If more that 40 hours are accumulated in one year, extra hours will be carried over to the next year. The Purple Cord Committee will review hours submitted.

For final year-end tabulation of hours, **graduating Seniors must** turn in **all** volunteer service hours forms by **April 30th of their graduating year**. If this timeline is not met, graduating seniors **will not** be receiving a purple cord, be recognized at the Awards Ceremony, or receive recognition during the graduation program.

Hours Approval and Tracking

The Purple Cord Committee or their designee will approve or disapprove all volunteer hours submitted. A running tally will be maintained in both paper and electronic forms. The electronic form is via JMC in the same location students' grades are accessed.

If hours are not approved, students will receive notification stating why the hours were not approved and how they could be approved, if applicable.

Criteria for Service Hours

Students **must** enroll in the Purple Cord Program prior to volunteering and accumulating hours. Students can do this by completing the enrollment form and turning it into the school office.

Volunteer hours **must** be completed from the pre-approved list of volunteer organizations. If an organization is not on the pre-approved list, students can ask for approval of the organization by completing the pre-approval form. Volunteer hours completed at non approved organizations will not be count unless extenuating circumstances exist.

Volunteer hours cannot be paid hours or court-ordered community service hours. Hours performed as part of membership responsibilities of a club or organization will not count. In addition, volunteer work that results in a financial benefit to the individual or the group will not count. However, hours will count if the group performs a service project beyond those responsibilities with no pay going to themselves or the organization (for instance, a yard clean-up day).

Volunteer hours **must** be submitted on the verification of service form by April 30. This form must be signed by both the student and the supervisor for whom the volunteer work was completed. Parents are not allowed to sign the verification form as the supervisor.

Recognition

At the end of each school year, underclassmen who volunteer at least 40 hours will receive a certificate.

Graduating seniors who complete the required hours will be recognized at the Senior Awards Night with a certificate and a Purple Cord. Additionally, seniors will be recognized on the graduation program. Cords will be returned to the school after graduation.

Activity Information

Examples of Activities that Count

- Volunteering for community service organizations
- Spending quality time with unrelated elderly (reading, singing, etc.)
- Assisting elderly community members with household chores
- Volunteering for church projects
- Helping to improve school grounds
- Shoveling sidewalks/raking for the elderly
- Cleaning ditches or other public areas around the community
- Assisting with Special Olympics
- Assisting at a hospital, shelter, day care or nursing home
- Beautifying community property
- Volunteering for school sponsored activities (track meets, music contest, etc. not required by an organization)
- Volunteering to help coach younger children in sports
- Volunteering to tutor younger children
- Fundraising (Salvation Army, etc.) but not for personal benefit (FFA fruit sales, band raffle ticket, etc.)
- Volunteering as a camp counselor
- Serving as a youth member of the School Board, City Council, Chamber of Commerce, or Church Council
- Attending School Board, Chamber of Commerce, City Council or Church Council meetings
- Volunteering for a political campaign
- Assisting with girl scout or boy scout service hours
- Confirmation/church service hours
- Assisting with janitorial help after home games
- **Other activities approved by the Volunteer Service Program Committee <u>PRIOR</u> to the completion of the activity**
- **Activities during the school day required <u>prior</u> approval**

Examples of Activities that do NOT count

- Doing chores at home or helping family members
- Attending church, CCD, or Sunday school
- Babysitting for a younger sibling
- Working on the family farm
- Completing any task where you receive money
- Doing extra credit homework or helping a teacher with classroom management tasks
- Participating in extracurricular activities
- Court-ordered community service tasks
- Minor act of kindness (holding a door, etc.)
- Internships/Apprenticeships
- **Working for free for a PROFIT organization**