



SILVER CORD

P R O G R A M

**CENTERVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL**



The Silver Cord Program is a graduation incentive program to promote volunteerism in the Centerville Area. Centerville High School seniors who volunteer a minimum of 200 hours throughout their high school career will graduate with a silver cord and be eligible to compete for a \$500–\$1,000 scholarship provided by the Centerville-Rathbun Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.

Goals of the Silver Cord Program:

- To create opportunities for students to contribute to schools and community organizations in a responsible way
- To get students to give of themselves by helping others, thus building their citizenship skills and fostering caring relationships with those around them
- To enhance and grow self-confidence within students
- To assist students in developing and participating in important community projects that will enhance their education and career prospects

Mission of the Silver Cord Program:

- The mission of the Silver Cord Program is to involve students as effective communicators, responsible citizens and skilled problem solvers in a valued partnership with a successful, growing community

About the Silver Cord Program:

- The Silver Cord Program is a distinguished award that is available to high school students for recognition of their out of school volunteer efforts
- The Silver Cord Program is voluntary for all Centerville High School students. The students who do participate and complete the required number of volunteer service hours will be recognized at their graduation by wearing a silver cord with their cap and gown and will also receive a special mention in the Commencement program
- All Silver Cord students must have the required number of approved and documented volunteer hours completed by May 1st of their senior year to qualify for recognition at their graduation ceremony

Annual Scholarship:

Graduating seniors with completion of required volunteer hours and a short essay describing the benefits they experienced in the program will be eligible for a \$500–\$1,000 scholarship provided by the Centerville-Rathbun Lake Chamber of Commerce. Multiple scholarships may be awarded annually. Scholarships awarded are non-renewable and will be payable to the student after proof of enrollment is provided.

Why should a student participate?

- Encourages students to experience the satisfaction of being a productive member of their community
- Encourages the exploration of career interest
- Supports youth seeking employment and college admission
- Gives new graduates the confidence to serve in leadership roles after high school

Student eligibility and requirements for the Silver Cord Program?

- All Centerville High School students are eligible
- Students can begin earning hours during the summer of their freshmen year
- Students must have a minimum of 200 hours. *See requirements for first four years of the program*
- Hours will be pro-rated for new students
- Students must volunteer for a minimum of 3 approved organizations per year
- Students may utilize 12 volunteer hours per year job shadowing at an approved business
- No more than 50% of hours can come from one organization per year
- Individual activities can NOT be court ordered, for school misconduct, or for class credit
- Volunteer/Job Shadowing hours can NOT be earned during scheduled class time
- Volunteer/Job Shadowing hours must be unpaid
- Students are NOT allowed to earn more than 8 hours in one day
- Upon completion of required hours, senior students must submit an essay describing the benefits of participating in the Silver Cord Program to the Centerville Chamber of Commerce by May 1st of their senior year for an opportunity to compete for a scholarship

Graduating class requirements for the first four years of the program:

- Class of 2019 must volunteer/job shadow a minimum of 50 hours to be eligible for the program
- Class of 2020 must volunteer/job shadow a minimum of 100 hours to be eligible for the program
- Class of 2021 must volunteer/job shadow a minimum of 150 hours to be eligible for the program
- Class of 2022 must volunteer/job shadow a minimum of 200 hours to be eligible for the program

How does a student sign up for the Silver Cord program?

- Students submit a completed consent form to the Centerville High School Counselor

How do students receive credit for and track their volunteer hours?

- Students must have event/activity/business coordinator sign Silver Cord Verification of Service form for credit
- Completed verification forms can be submitted to the High School Guidance Counselor or the Centerville-Rathbun Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
- Approved and documented Verification of Service forms must be submitted by May 1st of each year for student to receive credit and for seniors to be eligible for the scholarship and Silver Cord honors

How do I get started?

1. Complete the Student/Parent Agreement form and submit to the High School Guidance Counselor or Centerville-Rathbun Lake Chamber. Completed and signed form must be submitted prior to beginning any Silver Cord Program volunteer/job shadow activity.
2. Select an approved Silver Cord volunteer/job shadow opportunity and get started.

How to find approved opportunities:

- Volunteer opportunities will be posted on www.centervilleia.com (Volunteer tab/Silver Cord)
 - Student will receive emails from High School Guidance Counselor with upcoming opportunities
 - Student can contact approved Businesses/Organizations directly
 - Student can contact Centerville-Rathbun Lake Area Chamber of Commerce or High School Guidance Counselor
 - Volunteer opportunities not posted must be approved by Chamber of Commerce or High School Guidance Counselor
3. Reach out to organization and establish opportunity to volunteer/job shadow. Student must arrange all details such as activity requirements, date, time, and location.
 4. Take Silver Cord Verification form with you and have the event/activity/business coordinator sign the form after completion of activity for credit. Turn in completed form to the High School Guidance Counselor.

Examples of what counts towards Silver Cord hours?

- Supervised city and community cleanup
- Volunteer at preapproved community fundraisers and events/festivals
- Nursing home/daycare volunteer
- Youth coaching volunteer
- Job shadowing at an approved business
- Blood donations on your own time (minimum age is 16 and 16 requires parental/guardian consent. Age 17 and older does not require consent)

Examples of what does NOT count towards Silver Cord hours?

- Any work in which you receive compensation (i.e. mowing yards, babysitting)
- Fundraising for a team or organization in which you are involved
- Activities performed during school hours
- Required school activities and/or school practice (fine arts and sports)
- Activities that earn class credits
- Any activity that involves family
- Travel time to and from an approved activity
- Prom decorating or fundraising – a junior class responsibility
- Court ordered community service

Preapproved Organizations with Volunteer/Job Shadow Opportunities:

See Centerville-Rathbun Lake Area Chamber of Commerce/Get Involved/Silver Cord