

Make a Difference.

EARN RECOGNITION.
BUILD A BRIGHTER TOMORROW.

Students
Today.
Stronger
Communities
Tomorrow.



Silver Volunteerism Cord

RECOGNIZING SERVICE. CELEBRATING IMPACT.

PURPOSE

The Silver Volunteerism Cord is awarded to high school seniors who demonstrate a commitment to making a positive difference in their community.

REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ **Total Hours:** 35 volunteer hours
- ✓ **Eligible Service:** Hours must be completed through a nonprofit organization between freshman and senior year (grades 9–12).
- ✓ **Documentation:**
 - ☐ RCSS Volunteer/Community Service Log Sheet
 - ☐ Supervisor signature preferred, but a parent/guardian signature may be used for all hours.
 - ☐ Digital application (opens in January)
 - ☐ 250-word reflection (written, video, or audio) describing the impact of your volunteer experience.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE VOLUNTEER SERVICE INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Assisting at a church or faith-based program
- Volunteering with civic organizations (Kiwanis, Rotary, etc.)
- Helping at nonprofit summer camps
- Supporting school events or programs
- Assisting in hospitals or nursing homes
- Participating in nonprofit community cleanups or food drives
- Volunteer work with recognized nonprofit groups

Civic Engagement Diploma Seal

MORE THAN SERVICE. A STRONGER DEMOCRACY.



PURPOSE

Recognizes students who not only serve their community but also actively participate in civic life and democratic processes.

REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ **Total Hours:** 50 hours
 - ☐ 35 hours of volunteer service (same as Silver Cord)
 - ☐ 15 hours of civic engagement activities
- ✓ **Eligible Activities:** Completed between freshman and senior year (grades 9–12).
- ✓ **Documentation:**
 - ☐ RCSS Volunteer/Community Service Log Sheet
 - ☐ Supervisor signature preferred, but a parent/guardian signature may be used for all hours.
 - ☐ Digital application (opens in January)
 - ☐ Reflection on the impact of your service and civic engagement (same 250-word reflection used for the Silver Volunteerism Cord).

EXAMPLES OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO (15 HOURS):

- Attending a Board of Education meeting
- Attending a PTO/PTA meeting
- Participating in Model UN or other civic simulations
- Presenting at the National History Day competition
- Volunteering with voter registration or election assistance programs
- Attending a city council or county commission meeting
- Organizing/participating in a civic awareness campaign at school

AT A GLANCE: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Silver Volunteerism Cord

35 volunteer hours

Focus: Community service through a nonprofit

Civic Engagement Diploma Seal

35 volunteer hours + 15 civic engagement hours
(50 total hours)

Focus: Community service + active civic participation



GOOD NEWS!

The same 250-word reflection can be used for both the Silver Volunteerism Cord and the Civic Engagement Diploma Seal. If you complete the additional 15 civic engagement hours, you do not need to write a separate reflection.



HOW TO APPLY

- 1 Complete your volunteer/civic hours and keep track using the RCSS Volunteer/Community Service Log Sheet.
- 2 Gather required signatures (supervisor preferred, but parent/guardian signature is acceptable).
- 3 Submit the digital application (opens in January).
- 4 Upload your reflection (250 words) — the same reflection can be used for both the Silver Cord and the Civic Engagement Diploma Seal.



KEY DATES

Application Opens:
January 7, 2027

Application Deadline:
March 5, 2027



Plan ahead!
Don't wait until the last minute!



WHY IT MATTERS

- ✓ Make a positive impact in your community
- ✓ Develop real-world skills
- ✓ Show your commitment to service and civic responsibility
- ✓ Earn special recognition at graduation
- ✓ Be part of a more engaged community

Your Time.
A Brighter Tomorrow.