

Silver Volunteerism Cord & Civic Engagement Diploma Seal

Counselor Quick Reference

SILVER VOLUNTEERISM CORD

35 Volunteer Hours

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT DIPLOMA SEAL

35 Volunteer + 15 Civic = 50 Total Hours

At a Glance: Students earning the Civic Engagement Diploma Seal complete the same 35 volunteer hours required for the Silver Volunteerism Cord plus 15 additional hours of civic engagement.

Silver Volunteerism Cord

Purpose: Recognizes high school seniors who demonstrate a commitment to making a positive difference in their community.

Requirements

- 35 volunteer hours completed during grades 9–12.
- Volunteer service should be completed through a nonprofit organization.
- RCSS Volunteer/Community Service Log Sheet required.
- Supervisor verification is preferred; however, a parent/guardian may verify and sign for all volunteer hours.
- Digital application opens in January 7, 2027.
- 250-word reflection may be submitted in written, video, or audio format.

Examples of Places to Volunteer

- Church or faith-based programs
- Civic organizations such as Kiwanis or Rotary
- Nonprofit summer camps
- Qualifying school events or programs
- Hospitals or nursing homes
- Nonprofit cleanups or food drives
- Recognized nonprofit organizations

Civic Engagement Diploma Seal

Purpose: Recognizes students who serve their community and actively participate in civic life and democratic processes.

Requirements

- 50 total hours completed during grades 9–12.
- 35 volunteer hours (same requirement as the Silver Volunteerism Cord).
- 15 hours of civic engagement activities.
- RCSS Volunteer/Community Service Log Sheet required.
- Digital application required.
- Reflection on the impact of service and civic engagement required.

Examples of Civic Engagement (15 hours)

- Board of Education meeting
- PTO/PTA meeting
- Model UN or other civic simulations
- National History Day competition
- Voter registration or election assistance programs
- City council or county commission meeting
- Civic awareness campaign at school

What Counselors Need to Know

- Share both recognition opportunities with students, particularly seniors.
- **Help students distinguish between volunteer service and civic engagement activities before submitting their application.**
- Remind students to maintain documentation using the RCSS Volunteer/Community Service Log Sheet.
- Ensure required log sheets, applications, and reflections are submitted.
- Application window opens in January; final submission deadline **March 5th, 2027.**

Questions about whether an activity qualifies? Contact Sydney Prescott prescsy@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

in Teaching & Learning Department for guidance.