

Robinson Service Learning Frequently Asked Questions

What is Service Learning? Service learning is a form of teaching and learning that incorporates preparation, service, and reflection. Your teachers may require service learning as part of an assignment or you can create your own service learning activity. At Robinson Secondary, we have tied our Service Learning program to our School Improvement goal of *responsibility to the community* by helping students to contribute to their school, community, country, and world.

Is Service Learning the same as community service? Service learning is not simply volunteering. Your preparation to serve, your time, and your reflection combine to make your service activity a learning opportunity. Hopefully, through your service activity, you will be able to identify ways in which you can demonstrate your responsibility to the community by helping to make a positive impact on your school, community, country and world. To count any service as service learning, you must complete the preparation and reflection task in the Service Learning Tracker.

How many hours do I need to graduate? Service learning or volunteering is NOT a requirement for graduation.

What can I do to earn hours? There are many opportunities available for students to earn service hours. Talk to your teacher about service learning opportunities connected with what you are studying in class. Activities can also include most types of community service. The only restriction is that activities which seek to proselytize or recruit members into a religious organization are not eligible for service hours.

How do I track my hours? Service hours may be logged in x2VOL through Family Connection on Blackboard 24/7. All hours must be logged and verified in order to be counted toward the Service Cord, Civics Seal, and President's Volunteer Service Award.

What are the service awards? Students may be recognized for their service with a Service Cord, Civics Seal, and the President's Volunteer Service Award.

How many hours do I need for a Service Cord? In the service tradition of our school's namesake, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Lt. James W. Robinson, USA, Robinson Secondary recognizes students for dedicated service to the community. Students may wear a Service Cord at graduation as a symbol of their work towards making a difference in the community by accumulating a minimum of 40 hours of service learning and/or community service before graduation.

Do I have to do all of my hours in one year? Students are advised to spread their service learning and community service out over all four years of high school with a goal of completing 10 hours per year. There are a number of students who earn those hours in one year and many students who earn far more than

required for a service cord. All hours are cumulative over the high school career and students can track their hours in x2VOL accessible through Family Connection on Blackboard 24/7.

Do I have to apply for a Service Cord? Students who have completed the requirements of earning 40 hours of verified service in x2VOL, accessible through Family Connection on Blackboard 24/7 will be awarded a Service Cord. No formal application is required.

What is the Civics Seal? The Virginia State Board of Education recognizes students for their service with a Civics Seal. A student may earn a Virginia Board of Education Diploma Seal for Excellence in Civics Education to be affixed to his or her high school diploma by fulfilling each of the following four criteria:

1. Satisfy the requirement to earn a modified standard diploma, a standard diploma, or an advanced studies diploma.
2. Complete Virginia and United States History and Virginia and United States Government courses with a grade of B or higher.
3. Complete 50 hours of voluntary participation in community service or extracurricular activities. Any student who enlists in the United States military prior to graduation will be deemed to have met this community service requirement.
4. Have good attendance and no disciplinary infractions as determined by local School Board policies

What is the President’s Volunteer Service Award? The President’s Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals, families, and groups that have achieved a certain standard – measured by the number of hours of service during a **12-month period** or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime. Award recipients may choose a complete award package which includes a personalized certificate of achievement, a congratulatory letter from the President of the United States, and the official President’s Volunteer Service Award pin, coin, or medallion.

Bronze Level	Silver Level	Gold Level
Teens: Ages 11-15, 50-74 hours Young Adults: Ages 16-25, 100 to 174 hours	Teens: Ages 11-15, 75-99 hours Young Adults: Ages 16-25, 175 to 249 hours	Teens: Ages 11-15, 100+ Young Adults: Ages 16-25, 250+

What if I am a transfer student? Am I still eligible for service awards? Transfer students can still earn a service cord by verifying previous service learning activity. Please see the Service Learning Coordinator for more information.

Who can I see for more information or help? You can also get more information about service opportunities from Robinson Service Learning on Blackboard 24/7 or from the Service Learning Coordinator.

