



# Silver Cord Program

9th - 12th grades

## Overview

The Silver Cord Program is a voluntary graduation incentive program to promote volunteerism in students in Appanoose County. Enrolled students in Centerville, Moravia and Moulton-Udell school districts who volunteer a minimum of 80 hours in their community throughout their high school career will graduate with a Silver Cord, a special mention in the Commencement program and be eligible to compete for additional monetary scholarships provided by PACT (Promoting Appanoose & Centerville Together).

The goal of the Silver Cord Program is to create opportunities for students to contribute to their community while building citizenship skills, fostering caring relationships with those around them and growing their own self-confidence. Additionally, the program is designed to help students enhance their education and career prospects after graduating.

Students can begin earning hours during the summer leading into their freshman year of high school and must complete and submit their hours by May 1st of their senior year.

## Student Eligibility & Requirements

- Students can begin earning hours during the summer leading into their freshman year of high school and must complete and submit their hours by May 1st of their senior year.
- Hours will be prorated for new students.
- Students must volunteer for a minimum of three different organizations/events per year.
- Students may utilize six volunteer hours per year job shadowing.
- Volunteer or Job Shadowing hours must be unpaid and cannot exceed more than eight hours in one day.

## What counts towards Silver Cord hours?

- City & community clean-ups
- Youth coaching volunteer
- Job shadowing at a business
- Volunteer at community fundraisers & events

## What doesn't count towards Silver Cord hours?

- Any work in which you receive compensation or credit
- Fundraising for a team or organization in which you are involved
- Required school activities and/or school practice (fine arts & sports)
- Activities that earn class credit
- Activities that involves family
- Travel time to and from activities
- Prom decorating or fundraising
- Court ordered community service
- Volunteer time already claimed for other Volunteer programs (ie. National Honor Society, 4H, Student Council, etc)

**All hour submissions will be subject to review by PACT staff for appropriateness prior to awards received.**

## Getting Started:

1. Complete the digital [Volunteer Enrollment Form](#).
2. Students must submit a completed consent ([Silver Cords Student/Parent Agreement](#)) to PACT in person (128 N 12th Street, Centerville) or by email [tourism@pactiowa.org](mailto:tourism@pactiowa.org) before they can begin earning & recording hours.
3. Students can reference the [Volunteer Opportunities](#) document to find pre-approved organizations and events to volunteer for or they can find outside opportunities. Students can reach out if they have questions about whether or not a volunteer opportunity meets the requirements for the Silver Cord Program by emailing [tourism@pactiowa.org](mailto:tourism@pactiowa.org) .
4. Once a student is enrolled in the program, they can begin submitting their hours using the Google Form ([Silver Cord Hour Submission Form](#)) This program is based on the honor system, so no verification documentation needs to be submitted after each volunteer activity is completed. However, we do require that students include a contact name for the organization they volunteer with. This will only be used if the validity of the submitted hours comes into question.
5. Students will receive an updated log of the hours they've completed for the Silver Cord Program periodically via email.
6. In addition to receiving the Silver Cord, you can submit an essay to compete for financial scholarship. Submitting an essay does NOT guarantee that a scholarship will be awarded to you. However, if you would like to compete for the opportunity, you must complete an essay with the following requirements:
  - Write an essay that involves your experience in the Silver Cord Program.
  - It must be a minimum 500 words,
  - Must include your future plans after graduation,
  - What you have learned through your time in the Silver Cord Program,
  - Why it is important to volunteer in your community, and
  - Must be 500 word count or more.

Essays must be submitted electronically in pdf format to [tourism@pactiowa.org](mailto:tourism@pactiowa.org) by MAY 1ST AT 4:30M

Visit [www.pactiowa.org/volunteer](http://www.pactiowa.org/volunteer) for the links listed above and information about other programs!