

Silver Cord

All Silver Cord projects MUST show a real benefit to members of your community.

This program has been designed to provide you, the high school student, with opportunities to give back to your communities. If you participate for 125 hours as a student at the Solon Community School District, you will be recognized for your efforts by the wearing of a **silver cord** during the graduation ceremony.

What is Service Learning?

Service Learning should provide some direct or indirect benefit to members of your community. Service Learning is, in many ways, like volunteering in and around your community. The differences are that you will be documenting your participation by providing to Mrs. Clingerman a proposal which includes the names of the person/s or agency for which you volunteered so that they can confirm your efforts, and you will be asked to keep a reflective journal which lists the tasks you perform and what you learn by doing it.

Why should I participate?

Helping others is something that can give you a feeling of great satisfaction and accomplishment. Additionally, many scholarship, grant, college and employment applications require you to provide documentation concerning your volunteer experiences. The Silver Cord program is your opportunity to do this.

How can I become involved?

If you would like to participate, see Mrs. Clingerman. You may bring in an idea for your own project or we can help you, or your group, come up with a project.

What are the requirements for earning hours?

There are some requirements that must be met in order to satisfy the Service Learning criteria:

1. The Student Success Committee must approve of your project before it starts. Thus, a proposal form needs to be submitted to your class coordinator **a minimum of one week** before the scheduled service learning project begins. The service learning project **MUST** be approved **prior** to starting the project.
2. You must not be paid for the tasks you perform or receive any form of potential financial reimbursement (scholarships or grants). Service Learning projects for relatives are not permitted.
3. Silver cord credit for an organization that offers its own recognition can not exceed ten (10) hours per organization.
4. No single project can receive more than forty-two (42) hours of credit.
5. Court-ordered community service work **will not** be considered for service learning credit.
6. You will not be allowed to miss a class or classes to work on Service Learning Projects.
7. You may not use a project required as part of a class project for Service Learning credit.

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8. You must provide the name, email address, street address, and phone number of the person or agency you or your group volunteers for. Additionally, this contact person must be available to confirm and document your efforts in order for you to receive credit for your work.
9. You must fill out a journal (which will be provided) documenting your efforts and what you learned from this project.
10. You will be required to follow the Solon Student Rules of Conduct when participating in any service-learning project.
11. You will be required to adhere to the dress code of the institution in which you are volunteering. For instance, if you volunteer at Lakeview Elementary, you must follow the staff professional code of dress; if you volunteer in an office, you must wear professional business attire.
12. If you will be absent or late to a service learning site, you must notify your supervisor in advance.

****The Student Success Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal with just cause.****

What are some examples of *Service Learning Projects*?

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| 1. Initiate river clean-up projects | 4. Provide child care for a community event |
| 2. Paint homes for the elderly | 5. Run a food drive for the Crisis Center |
| 3. Raise funds for environmental or humanitarian groups | |

Does the SLP have to take place in Solon?

No, it doesn't. A site in a surrounding community will be considered for approval. For example, many Johnson County residents rely on services provided by agencies located in Iowa City, such as the Animal Shelter or the Crisis Center Food Bank. Both of these sites would be ideal for Service Learning Projects.

Does the SLP have to take place during the school year?

No, it does not. However, there are two requirements that must be met if the student is to receive Silver Cord Credit for a project undertaken outside the school year:

1. Your proposal must be approved prior to the end of the school year by a Student Success Committee member, and you must complete all required paperwork, including the journaling component.
2. The supervisor or contact person must be available after summer vacation to confirm your participation and to document the amount of time you volunteered.
3. Final paperwork (journal and time sheet) must be processed within 60 days of completion. Seniors must have all paperwork processed by May 1 of their graduation year.

Can I earn a Silver Cord as a student transferring in from another school?

See the Student Success Committee for criteria.

Questions? Ask one of the current Student Success Committee members:

Mrs. Cannon
Mrs. Clingerman

Mrs. Lane
Ms. Nielsen

Mrs. Gilroy
Mr. Thompson