

VARSITY LETTER IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR APPLICATION

*Please read thoroughly and note changes from last year

Students who volunteer 145 or more hours of service in a year can earn their school varsity letter—the same letters as those earned by athletes and musicians!

Students must meet all of the following requirements to apply:

- Must be in grades 9-12 in a Snohomish County school
- Complete attached checklist and all required documents
- 2.0 GPA or higher
- Submit \$15 application fee
- Submit application and all necessary paperwork by **April 1, 2019**
- Complete at least 145 hours of community service **between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019**
 - Complete at least 70 hours of CORE-aligned service work (please see page 7 for specific guidelines)
 - Enter all hours on <http://getconnected.uwsc.org>

DEADLINE TO APPLY: MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019

Submit completed application to:

United Way of Snohomish County
Attn: Lisa Ocampo
3120 McDougall Ave, Suite 200
Everett, WA 98201

Your application must be received by April 1, 2019 to be considered.

Application may be mailed, delivered in person, faxed, or emailed—provided they are legible

\$15 application fee must be received and/or postmarked by April 1, 2019

Fax: 425.374.5555

Email: volunteers@uwsc.org

Questions?

Contact Diana Juarez
Senior Engagement &
Volunteerism Manager
United Way of Snohomish
County diana.juarez@uwsc.org
425.374.5542

What to expect after you apply:

- You will be notified upon receipt of your application via email or phone no later than 4/31/19.
- You will then be notified of your award status no later than 5/31/19.
- Awards will be given at an event or assembly chosen by your school.
- If you don't receive it at school, your letter will be available for pick up at United Way's office only (address above) and cannot be mailed.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

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- I read the entire application and noted changes to the community service hours requirements
- Submitted the \$15 application fee
- Completed "student information" page legibly, got parent/guardian signatures
- Completed academic eligibility form
- Entered hours, descriptions, and supervisor contact information on Get Connected
- Completed at least 70 CORE hours, serving young children and their families with low income in Snohomish County
- Verified that the email address on my application is the same as the one on my Get Connected volunteer profile
- Completed a total of 145 hours

STUDENT INFORMATION

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Please print clearly

Full Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

School Name: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Email address: (must be the same as address used on Get Connected profile) _____

Mailing address: _____
Street City State ZIP

Please circle:

This will be my 1st 2nd 3rd 4th Varsity Letter in Community Service

If this is your first award, have you earned your school's letter for any other activities or sports?

circle **YES** or **NO**

STUDENT AGREEMENT

I attest that I performed the documented hours of community service included in the attached verification forms and met all the qualifications as outlined by United Way of Snohomish County's website. To my knowledge, these hours are valid and count toward my earning the varsity letter in community service.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

COMMUNICATIONS WAIVER

I hereby assign to United Way of Snohomish County all rights to video and audio recordings and all photographs of my child made in connection with Varsity Letter in Community Service activities. I hereby authorize editing, duplication, reproduction, copyright, exhibition, broadcast and/or other use and distribution of such recordings or quotations for purposes deemed suitable by United Way of Snohomish County. I also waive any right to approve or disapprove the finished products.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

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This form must be completed and returned with your application in order for it to be considered.

United Way of Snohomish County requires students earning their varsity letter in community service to be in good standing with the school they attend. Students receiving their letters must meet the same academic requirements and eligibility guidelines as other varsity letter recipients as they are set forth by their school.

United Way of Snohomish County requires that varsity letter in community service recipients maintain at least a 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA).

This academic eligibility check must be completed by an appropriate school staff member. In most schools, this may be the athletic secretary. If you are unclear on whom this person is, please ask in the main office.

Student name (print): _____

School: _____

I verify that, as of (date) ___/___/_____, the above listed student meets the academic standards and good standing requirements as set forth by our high school and 2.0 GPA requirement set forth by United Way of Snohomish County.

Staff Name: _____

Staff job title: _____ Contact phone: _____

Staff signature: _____

HOW TO TRACK YOUR HOURS

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This year to streamline the awarding process, students must enter their community service hours on our volunteer website, Get Connected. See below for instructions on tracking hours.

If access to a computer or device is an issue, please contact us to discuss it. This should not be a barrier for students, but a streamlined process of tracking hours to allow students to be awarded more quickly.

STEP 1:

Go to <http://getconnected.uwsc.org/>, click “sign up” in top toolbar, and create an account.

Please note that the email address you sign in with should be the same as the email on your student information form. This is how we will identify you.

STEP 2:

Sign up to volunteer online OR volunteer on your own for your favorite organization!

STEP 3:

On your Dashboard, click on the stopwatch icon that says “VOLUNTEER HOURS.” Click “add hours” and follow the prompts. If your volunteer activity was in response to a certain post on Get Connected, you will not need to enter contact information. If you completed hours elsewhere, you will need to provide location, volunteer supervisor, and email address.

Provide a description of the hours you worked—please be specific. If the hours are “CORE-aligned,” please explain how they serve young children and their families with low income in Snohomish County.

STEP 4:

Submit hour entry. You can now view a list of your hours on one page!

STEP 5:

For every organization you volunteer with, record the name of the organization or project, supervisor name and signature, and how many hours. To get this information, bring the “verified community service hours” sheet to each volunteer opportunity (page 6).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND CHANGES TO THE PROGRAM

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What are “CORE-aligned” hours?

For your application to be considered, you must complete at least 70 CORE-aligned hours. Creating Open Roads to Equity (CORE) is about placing the whole family at the center of a collaborative partnership where multiple nonprofit, public, and private partners are working to meet the needs of both the child and the adults in their life, together.

We are adopting two very promising national models: [Collective Impact](#) and a [2-Generational approach](#). Together, our new work helps place [children birth to age 8 and their families with low income](#) at the core of a collaborative system of care to address the unique root causes of a family’s struggle and dismantle the systems that keep families trapped in poverty.

For hours to be “CORE-aligned,” they must directly benefit children from birth to age 8 and their families with low income in Snohomish County. Applications will not be approved if CORE hours do not fit this criteria.

HELPFUL TIPS

Finding volunteer opportunities

There are organizations looking for help from volunteers every day, sometimes you just need to know where to look. Get Connected, our volunteer website, has a list of organizations you could reach out to for volunteer opportunities. For the full list, visit <http://bit.ly/GCorganizations>

To view a list of United Way CORE-aligned partners, visit <http://bit.ly/COREpartners>

Many already have opportunities posted that you can sign up for right on the site. Select “opportunities” to browse volunteer projects.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

There is an application fee of \$15 that is required of all applicants. What is this fee for? Can I sponsor a student? Or what if I can’t pay?

The application fee that was instated in 2016 is to help cover costs toward the ordering of the school patch letter, patch bars, community service patch and the award packet.

If you are interested in sponsoring an additional student(s), please let us know or make checks payable to United Way of Snohomish County (3120 McDougall Ave. Ste. 200 Everett, WA 98201) Attn: Varsity Letter. If you are not able to pay this fee, please contact volunteers@uwsc.org with the reason and any documentation you may have around financial aid.

If you volunteered as a camp counselor or served on a volunteer mission trip through your church, you can calculate your hours as follows:

- During the school year: 10 hours per day
- During the summer: 15 hours per day

If you have documentation proving that you served more than these number of hours per day, you may submit it with your application and will be credited with these hours if we are able to verify them through your provided contact.

Can I count hours from club meetings?

If you participate in a school service club, you may count any hours that are spent organizing and implementing a service project. If you are in a club that uses meeting times to discuss other club business, you may not count those hours. Only hours spent planning and participating in a service project will count as community service hours.

I volunteer as a sports manager with my school's team. Do these hours count?

Typically, you are able to earn a sports management letter if you volunteer with a varsity-level team, so your hours do not count if this option is available at your school.

If your time is spent with younger students (junior high or an elementary school team) or with a community sports group, your hours will most likely count. Please contact us if you are unsure.

Can I count my time babysitting or helping with yard work or house work?

Babysitting, yard work or house work performed with a 501(c)(3) nonprofit can be counted for this award. In cases where you are assisting an individual on your own, we require the individual have a documented need, and they cannot be a related to you. To qualify, the recipient must meet at least one of the following criteria and you must submit documentation with your application:

- Receive Medicaid benefits (low-income senior citizen)
- Receive SSDI (individual with a disability)

Can I use my required school hours or Eagle Scout Project for my application?

Any hours used to fulfill a school requirement, court mandated hours, or to earn an Eagle Scout honor may not be used toward your Varsity Letter in Community Service. All hours submitted for this application must be done above and beyond all school requirements.

If you are volunteering to help another scout with his/her Eagle Scout project, these hours may be counted toward your application.

I volunteered several hours with an organization I am a member of i.e. my church, Rainbow, Boy Scouts etc... do these hours count?

Since you are a member, hours can only be counted when you are doing service for other people or an outside group like a nonprofit. If your organization was hosting a food drive or spaghetti night feed that benefited an outside agency then hours spent setting up and collecting or serving the food would count. However, hours spent benefiting the organization itself such as singing choir at your own church, setting up an event for your own Boy Scout troop, ushering at your own organization's event etc. would not count. If you aren't sure, please contact us ahead of time.

I volunteered with a local company but wasn't paid. Can I count these hours?

No. Hours must be volunteered with a nonprofit agency or school.

I volunteered as a foster "parent" for a non-profit animal agency. Do these hours count? And if so, how do I count them?

If the organization is a non-profit and by fostering an animal you are in turn helping the community by getting them ready for adoption, then yes these hours count towards the non-CORE-aligned hours.

Here is how you can count your hours:

- 2 hours a day for a healthy adult animal
- 4 hours a day for a healthy litter of kitten or puppies
- 4 hours a day for a sick or recovering adult animal
- 6 hours a day for a sick litter of kittens or puppies
- 6 hours a day for mom and baby