

# Silver Cord Program

The Silver Cord award is a distinguished graduation award available to WDMCS District seniors who volunteer a minimum of 50 hours during every year of high school.

## What is the Silver Cord Program?

The Silver Cord Program began at Valley High School in the fall of 2001 as a graduation incentive program to promote a lifetime of community service. Today, WDMCS Community Education coordinates the program districtwide, and more than 700 students from Valley, Valley Southwoods, and Walnut Creek Campus are volunteering to earn this award. All West Des Moines Community Schools (WDMCS) high school students are encouraged to participate, regardless of their GPA, rigor of course study, and artistic or athletic ability.

## When can a student start volunteering to earn the award?

All WDMCS freshman are eligible to participate in the Silver Cord Program beginning the summer following eighth grade. To earn the Silver Cord Award, high school students must volunteer a minimum of 50 hours each grade level. **Please Note: The Silver Cord year runs from June 1-May 31.**

## Why should a student participate?

The purpose of the Silver Cord program is to encourage volunteerism and allow students to experience the joy of giving back to the community. Volunteering can provide a constructive use of time, foster the exploration of career interests, support youth seeking employment and college admission, and give new graduates the confidence to serve in leadership roles after high school.



## How does a student sign up?

Starting May 4, 2015, students can complete the online application to set up their Silver Cord account. This can be found on the WDMCS Community Education website ([www.wdmcs.org/commed](http://www.wdmcs.org/commed)) and is located under 'Silver Cord.' Please write down your user name and password, and use an email address that is checked regularly. Once the application has been submitted, students will receive an email with information on how to log in to their online account. Students can then start submitting preapprovals if needed. Please read through the Silver Cord user's manual before submitting preapprovals for clarification of the process. **Students can start volunteering and submitting hours for credit beginning June 1. Hours submitted before June will be denied.**

## How does a student find out about volunteer opportunities?

The best place to find out about volunteer opportunities is on the WDMCS Community Education Silver Cord Preapproved webpage. All of the volunteer opportunities posted on the webpage are well suited for students aged 14-18. The website address is [www.wdmcs.org/commed/programs/youth/service-learning/silver-cord-award/pre-approved-activities/](http://www.wdmcs.org/commed/programs/youth/service-learning/silver-cord-award/pre-approved-activities/).

## Where can a student get more information?

Detailed information about participating in the Silver Cord program is provided on the Silver Cord website. This information includes: directions on how to use the online system, acceptable/unacceptable service opportunities, and deadlines for credit. For additional information, please contact the Silver Cord Coordinator.

## Contact Information

Cyndi Bonus, Silver Cord Coordinator  
Valley Southwoods and Valley High School  
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