

2007 - 2008 PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM



The Ronald Reagan PTA is proud to introduce the "President's Volunteer Service Award Program" for the new 2007-2008 school years. We have recently teamed with the White House to become a Certifying Organization for the award which recognizes Americans who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to volunteer service. Established in 2003, the Award was created by President George W. Bush to encourage a sustained commitment to civic participation and inspire others to make volunteering a central part of their lives and is given to individuals that have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service and civic participation over the course of a 12-month period.

ALL Ronald Reagan High School students are eligible and encouraged to participate. Even students that have never volunteered before are eligible to earn the President's Volunteer Service Award. Participation in a Reagan group, committee or club is not a requirement to participate in earning this Prestigious Award.

Qualification Guidelines

To be recognized, service activities should meet national or community needs in the areas of youth achievement, parks and open spaces, healthy communities, and public safety and emergency response. **All volunteer activities should be unpaid and should not include efforts completed for the student's immediate family.** (*i.e. taking care of sibling...*)

Some examples of **Volunteer Activities** include and are not limited to the following:

Youth Achievement -Mentoring, coaching, tutoring, improving literacy in areas such as reading and finance, and volunteering to keep young people engaged academically in education.

Parks & Open Spaces - Includes volunteer efforts to conserve and protect our parklands and gardens, neighborhood cleanups and creating safe playgrounds.

Healthy Communities - Includes volunteer efforts to help the elderly, disabled, diseased, hungry or homeless, and to improve the economic health of the community. These could include volunteering for health/nutrition education services, immunization campaigns, resume building, career training, disease screenings, hospital support, blood drives, veterans outreach, working with local public health programs, micro-enterprise and business development.

Public Safety & Emergency Response - Includes volunteer efforts for individuals and families to make their homes, and their communities safer from the threats of crime, terrorism, and disasters of all kinds. It includes preparedness training, volunteer firefighters, and programs like Citizen Corps, Neighborhood Watch, Medical Reserve Corps and Volunteers in Police Service.

There are three levels of the Award and are based on the hours of service completed. Each award recipient receives a personalized certificate of achievement, a congratulatory letter from the President of the U.S. and an official President's Award pin. Qualifications for awards are as follows:

Kids - 14 and younger (14 before December 31, 2007)

- Bronze Award 50 - 74 hours
- Silver Award 75 - 99 hours
- Gold Award 100 or more hours

We will be working on developing a President's Service Award Program (PVSA) page on the Reagan PTA web site. Once the webpage is up, program information and volunteer opportunities will be posted as they become available.

Volunteer opportunities can be found on the PVSA website: <http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/> or through your local American Red Cross, Salvation Army, SA Food Bank, etc.. There are also a number of clubs/organizations/groups at Reagan that periodically sponsor community service events. We will do our best to post those opportunities onto the Student Activity Calendar located on the Reagan PTA website. www.ronaldreaganpta.org.

Questions may be referred to Jackie Sorenson at (210)497-8483 (jackiesorenson@aol.com) or Mrs. Mary Ogonowski at mogono@neisd.net. The Reagan PTA thanks you for your interest and assistance in helping make your community a better place.

