

**Welcome to the Panorama ISD “Gold Cord”
Community Service Award Program**



Panorama ISD

Respect | Honor | Dedication

Letter from Superintendent

Dear Students:

High school is a formative period in a student's life, filled with academic challenges, personal growth, and the exploration of future paths. While academics play a crucial role, particularly in Panorama ISD, it is equally important for high school students to engage in activities that foster personal development, empathy, and a sense of social responsibility.

One such avenue that can profoundly impact their lives is community service. From personal growth and skill development to fostering a sense of compassion and empathy, community service offers a multitude of benefits that can shape students into well-rounded individuals.

Community service offers high school students a unique opportunity to grow personally, develop essential life skills, and foster compassion and empathy. Through their involvement, students contribute to building stronger communities while gaining a deeper understanding of societal challenges.

Engaging in community service not only benefits those in need but also empowers students to become compassionate, socially responsible individuals who actively work towards creating positive change in the world. By embracing community service during their high school years, students lay the foundation for a lifetime of giving back, personal growth, and meaningful connections with others.

To help you remember your value in the community, please remove the detachable flyer "Participation Matters: The importance of community service" and post it in your locker and share it with friends.

Casey Morgan

Casey Morgan
PISD, Superintendent



Respect. Honor. Dedication.

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Program Overview

What is the PSID “Gold Cord” Community Service Award Program?

The “Gold Cord” Community Service Award Program is an initiative designed to help high school students gain a sense of community service, pride, and ownership. The program is a way to encourage 9-12 grade students to contribute at least 100 hours of approved community service per school year. Those students meeting these requirements will be recognized as Gold Cord award recipients in each high school year they complete 100 or more hours.

Program Recognition

Students can be recognized all four years. Those meeting or exceeding the community service requirements (100 hours/year) will be awarded a Gold Cord certificate or patch for each year of participation.

Graduation Honors

During their senior year, graduates have the option to purchase a “Gold Cord” for each year of achievement (100 hours/year), which they may wear during the high school graduation ceremony.

Who should participate in the program?

This program is for any student who wants to complete community service hours for personal satisfaction, community service recognition, and to enhance their college admissions and scholarship opportunities. Any student who wants recognition for completing 100 or more community service hours per year should participate in the “Gold Cord” program.



“You have two hands: One to help yourself, the second to help others.”

- Audrey Hepburn, Actress

Who Can Enroll

PISD Students

Any high school student in grades 9-12 at Panorama ISD can enroll in the Gold Cord Community Service Program. This program is open to students who want to make a difference in their community, gain valuable skills, and earn recognition for completing 100 or more service hours each year.

Transfer Students

A transfer student may participate in the "Gold Cord" program. The 100 required community service hours may include approved hours earned while attending the previous high school. It is the student's responsibility to provide adequate documentation of the approved hours.

How to Enroll

Find a Sponsor

Make contact with one of the approved 501c3 non-profit organizations to set up an interview or orientation - whichever is required by that organization.

If you have a sponsor that is not on the approved list, contact the Gold Cord office before offering to volunteer to make sure hours worked with that company or non-profit are acceptable.

Apply

You must apply for enrollment into the Gold Cord program by submitting an enrollment form to the sponsor before October 15, 2015. Once the enrollment form is received by the sponsor, the sponsor will either approve or deny the request.

Check Application Status

You are responsible for checking the status of your application. To check on your program entry approval, please contact the office. Approval notifications will be sent by October 30. If you haven't received confirmation by then, reach out to ensure your enrollment has been processed.



Benefits of Enrollment

Students who earn 100+ community service hours during a school year will receive a Gold Cord patch for his/her letter jacket. A new patch can be earned each school year, allowing each student to earn up to four Gold Cord patches during their high school education.

A Gold Cord can be earned and worn at the graduation ceremony by any student who has completed 100+ community service hours in at least one of the four years of high school.

Special mention will be made in the graduation program for students who complete the Gold Cord program all four years of high school.

What is Community Service (and what is not)

Acceptable

- Any established 501c3 non-profit organization
- Church support related activities such as mission trips, singing with choir at nursing homes
- Some church activities that do not involve worship or religious instruction.
- Helping at a campus other than their own such as local hospital campus
- Teen Court Youth Volunteer (not serving as a resolution for a ticket and consequence)



Not Acceptable

- Individual fund-raising
- Babysitting your neighbor's child for free
- Working as an intern without pay
- Working at church that involves religious instruction or teaching religion
- Singing or playing an instrument in church
- Helping a teacher during class
- Leadership Training
- Volunteer time that is part of the course requirement
- Work done during the school day (9 a.m. – 4:10 p.m)
- Teen court time served for breaking the law.

What is a 501c3 Non-Profit Organization

A 501(c)(3) organization is a non-profit group that's officially recognized by the government as a charity. This means it doesn't operate to make money for owners or shareholders, and any money it earns is used to support its mission, like helping people in need, protecting the environment, or promoting education. Examples of 501c3 organizations include food banks, hospitals, and animal shelters.



What Counts As Hours (and what does not)

Not Acceptable

- Hours earned K-8th grades
- Double hours promised by sponsor
- Hours with incomplete information that cannot be verified
- Hours submitted after the April 15 deadline
- Old hours not turned in from previous school year
- Hours completed on school campus over 10 hours (unless there are extenuating circumstances and it is approved in advance)
- Hours turned in with parent's signature
- Hours recorded on multiple dates but only one page is signed by your Volunteer Supervisor
- Hours turned in on forms not signed by an adults.
- Hours turned in after senior release without a signed copy of schedule to verify
- Hour performed as a part of a court order for community service, or similar judgment, will not be counted toward the student's Gold Cord hours.
- Only those hours performed by a student without compensation will qualify for community service approval.

Acceptable

- Hours earned the summer after 8th grade
- Hour-for-hour volunteer time
- Volunteering outside the student's scheduled school day
- Hours completed after senior release with an attached copy of schedule
- Hours that are properly documented including date, description of activity, organization name, contact name and information and submitted by the April 15 deadline.
- Hours turned in on time on due date.



Program Guidelines

Steps for Submitting and Logging Hours

Pick up a (printed on Gold paper) in the Counseling Center or download the form from the Eaton Counseling website.

Complete a Gold Cord Service Log form in full after each activity. You may use the front and back side of your form, if needed.

Have your adult Volunteer Supervisor sign and date your form and return to you at the end your volunteer activity.

Make a copy of your completed form for your records.

Return the original copy of the completed form to the Gold Cord sponsor for final approval within 1 week of completing your volunteer activity.

Pick up a new Gold Cord Service Log form or print so you will have it available for your next volunteer activity.

Resolving Disputes about Hours and Safety Concerns

Disputes about Hours

Students are responsible to check their hours and report any problems at that time

Students are responsible to clear up questions and check their hours, not parents.

If it is found that you have falsified any part of your form/service, you will be dismissed from the program

Disputes about Safety

In any volunteer situation, it is important to adopt certain safety practices. Never allow yourself to be left alone or placed in compromising situations. If you feel your safety may be compromised at any time, excuse yourself from the volunteer activity and report the occurrence to your sponsor.

If there is an immediate emergency, call 911.



Special Notice!

The Gold Cord sponsor will review and log your hours. If there is a question about your hours after they are reviewed, the sponsor will contact you.

If you do not respond in a timely manner, those hours will be forfeited.

Program Expectations

Expected of you

- To be on time and dress appropriately
- To be reliable to your commitment
- To work within the guidelines and standards of the agency
- To accept and follow directions of the agency staff
- To make sure you understand the directions given to you and seek clarification.
- To actively perform tasks to the best of your ability
- To provide feedback to the agency staff
- To report any problems to the agency staff
- To represent the school and yourself in an exemplary manner

Expected of organization

- To be advised of the agency's standards, guidelines, and expectations
- To be given meaningful assignments
- To be given a clear statement of tasks to be performed
- To be informed of organizational policies and procedures
- To be given effective supervision
- To be recognized for work performed



“Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.”

- Sherry Anderson, Pan Foundation

Appendix A

Approved Community Organizations

Established 501c3 organizations need no pre-approval. However, if the student doesn't know whether or not the intended organization has a 501c3 status, he/she should check with the Gold Cord sponsor prior to volunteering to guarantee approval.

- Agape/Slab – Soup kitchens, shelters, blanket drives
- American Cancer Society
- Beam Foundation
- Cancer Prevention Organizations
- Christmas is for Children
- Church Activities – Non-religious in nature, e.g. building churches or homes, blankets for homeless shelters, general office work, etc.
- Community Storehouse
- Food pantries – Roanoke Food Pantry, N. Texas Food Bank, Tarrant Area Food Bank
- G.R.A.C.E. – Sorting clothes, canned food drives
- Habitat for Humanity – Carpentry, repair of houses
- Health Organizations – American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, etc.
- Hospitals – Youth volunteer programs such as candy strippers

- Libraries – Shelving, check out books, summer reading programs for children
- Local City Departments – Parks & Recreation, general office work, festivals, visitors center
- Meals on Wheels – Delivering meals, volunteering at fundraisers
- Political Campaign (no relatives) – Stuffing envelopes, phone banks, distributing signs
- PTA – Project Graduation, registration
- Schools (must be done outside of school day) such as moving furniture and supplies, manning booths for open house, assisting teachers, tutoring, etc.
- Scouting – Eagle Scout programs, assisting pack leaders, helping at camps
- Teen Court (excluding mandated service) such as Juror, Bailiff, Attorney
- Women's Clubs and Community Organizations
- Ronald McDonald House

To receive credit for other community service activities not mentioned above, students may seek written approval from the Gold Cord sponsor.

Questions can be addressed by e-mail or in writing. If the organization has not been pre-approved, a student may count hours only if and after the organization receives approval as a community service site from the Gold Cord sponsor.

Appendix B

Contact Information

Contact

Gold Cord Questions
GCQ@pisd.edu

Address

123 Knowledge Street
Ourtown, USA 55478

Counseling Center:
Superintendent's Office
1st Floor

Website
www.pisd.edu

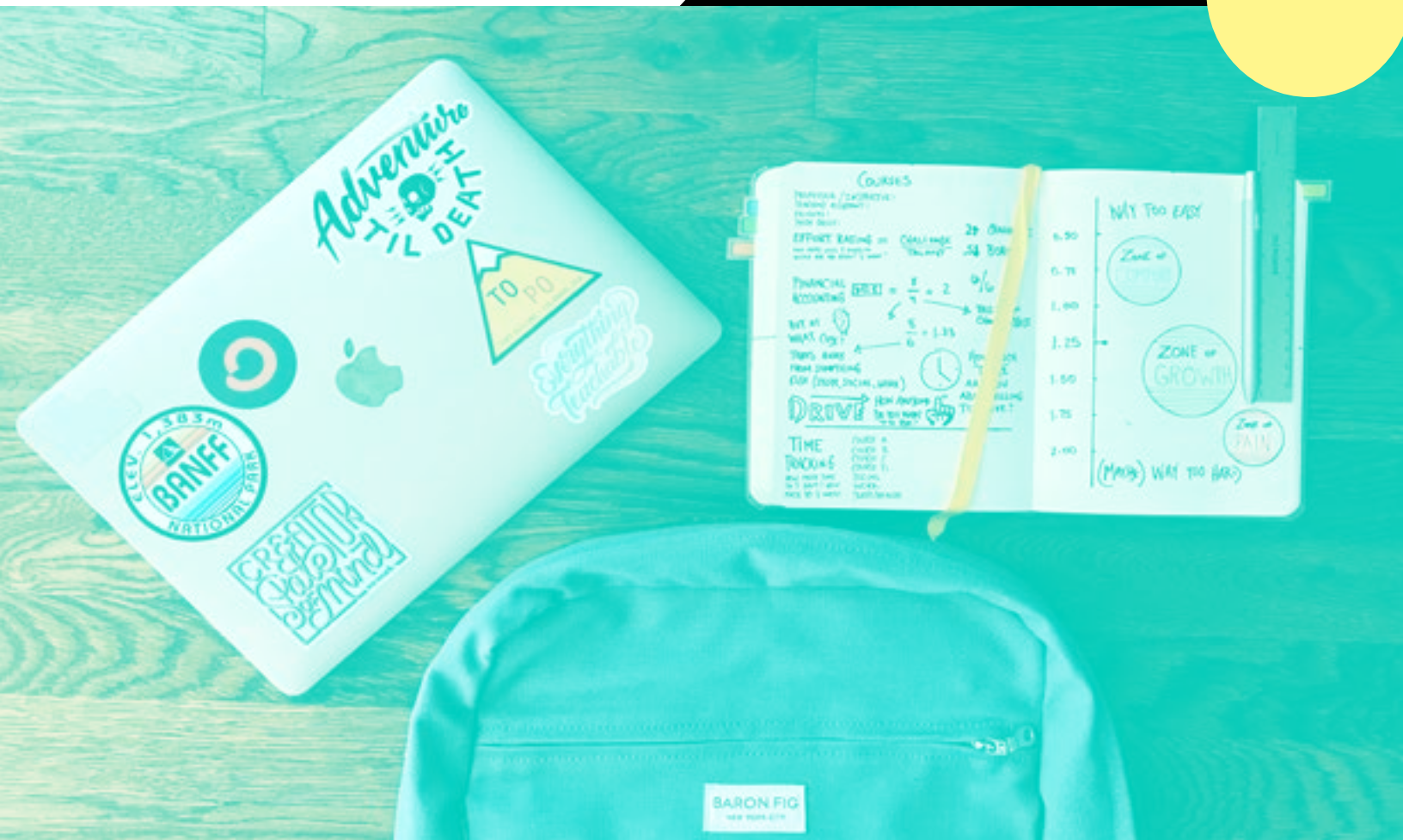
Downloads
www.pisd.edu/goldform

Important Dates

Sign up Deadline:
April 15

Submission of Time Sheet Deadline:
October 15

All Time Sheets Deadline:
October 30

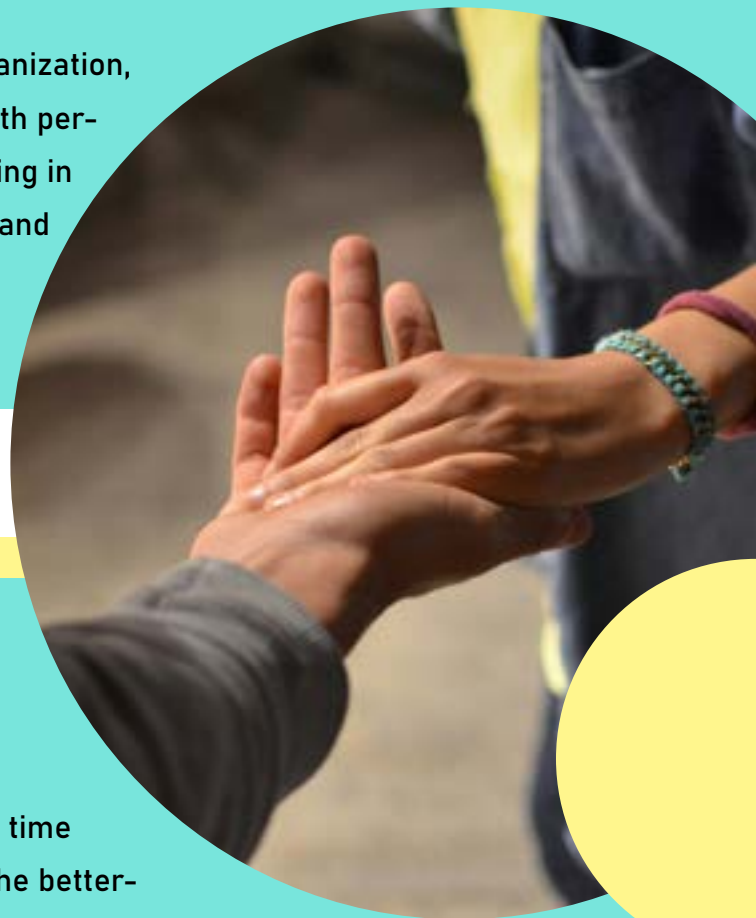


Participation Matters: The importance of community service.

Personal Growth/Skill Development

Community service provides an exceptional opportunity for high school students to develop valuable life skills. Engaging in volunteer work allows them to step out of their comfort zones, face new challenges, and develop resilience. Through service projects, students can enhance their problem-solving abilities, leadership skills, and effective communication.

Additionally, they can cultivate time management, organization, and teamwork skills, which are vital for success in both personal and professional spheres. By actively participating in community service, high school students can acquire and hone these essential skills, preparing them for future endeavors.



Building Stronger Communities

High school students play a pivotal role in building stronger, more cohesive communities through their involvement in community service. By dedicating their time and effort to service projects, students contribute to the betterment of their neighborhoods, schools, and local organizations. Whether it is volunteering at a local food bank, participating in environmental cleanups, or assisting with community events, their contributions have a tangible and lasting impact.

Community service helps foster a sense of ownership and pride in their community, promoting civic engagement and creating a foundation for positive social change.

Participation Matters: The importance of community service.

Fostering Compassion and Empathy

Community service cultivates a sense of compassion and empathy in high school students. By actively engaging with individuals and communities facing various challenges, students gain a deeper understanding of the world beyond their immediate surroundings. They learn to appreciate diversity, respect differences, and develop a genuine concern for the welfare of others. This firsthand experience of witnessing the impact of their actions can be transformative, shaping their perspective and fostering a lifelong commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others.



Exploring Career Paths and Building Networks

Engaging in community service during high school exposes students to a wide range of industries, organizations, and social issues. Through these experiences, students can explore potential career paths, discover their passions, and develop a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by various sectors. Moreover, community service often provides opportunities to connect with professionals, mentors, and like-minded individuals who share a commitment to making a difference. These connections can be invaluable in terms of future career opportunities, mentorship, and building a network of individuals who share similar values.

**Enroll in the PISD Gold Cord
Program today and graduate with**

Respect.

Honor.

Dedication.

