

# Presidential Volunteer Service Award: Cary Teen Council 2024-2025

## About the Award

The Cary Teen Council under the Town of Cary is a Certifying Organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award. The President's Volunteer Service Award is the premier volunteer award program, encouraging a life of service through presidential recognition. Recognizing and honoring volunteers sets a standard for service, encourages a sustained commitment to civic participation and inspires others to make service a central part of their lives.

## Award Criteria

Students that meet the program's criteria can receive Presidential recognition for volunteer hours served over a 12-month period. (If they are applying for the Lifetime Achievement Award, this would cover all volunteer hours over their lifetime but those hours would need to equal at least 4000 hours to be eligible.)

## Criteria for recognition are:

- Recipients must be United States citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents of the United States.
- Awards are issued for hours served within a 12-month time period **(For the Cary Teen Council this is May 1, 2024-April 30, 2025)**
- Awards are issued for volunteer service only. Additional levels of participation with the organization, i.e. charitable support (monetary donations), are not a factor considered for the award.
- Court-ordered community service does not qualify for the award.
- Awards are issued by approved Certifying Organizations.
- Service must be with an organization that is legally established in the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or one of the territories.

## **Award Eligibility**

Any individual, family, or group can receive Presidential recognition for volunteer hours earned over a 12-month period at home or abroad. (Lifetime Achievement Award is over the course of a lifetime equaling 4000+ hours) The following are the eligibility requirements for each age group:

**Kids:** Ages 5-10

**Teens:** Ages 11-15

**Young Adults:** Ages 16-25

**Adults:** Age 26 +

### **Bronze Level Service Award Criteria**

**Kids:** 26 to 49 hours

**Teens:** 50 to 74 hours

**Young Adults:** 100 to 174 hours

**Adults:** 100 to 249 hours

**Family & Groups:** 200 to 499 hours



### **Silver Level Service Award Criteria**

**Kids:** 50 to 74 hours

**Teens:** 75 to 99 hours

**Young Adults:** 175 to 249 hours

**Adults:** 250 to 499 hours

**Family & Groups:** 500 to 999 hours



### **Gold Level Service Award Criteria**

**Kids:** 75 hours or more

**Teens:** 100 hours or more

**Young Adults:** 250 hours or more

**Adults:** 500 hours or more

**Family & Groups:** 1000 hours or more



## **President's Call to Service**

### **Lifetime Achievement Award Criteria**

**All Ages:** 4,000 hours or more of volunteer service over a lifetime.

#### **Eligible Service:**

- Unpaid acts of volunteer service benefiting others
  - Service through National service programs that provide a stipend (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps) may count towards the Lifetime Achievement Award, but not for the annual Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards)
  - Travel stipends, transit/parking passes, membership passes, expense reimbursements, and other nominal volunteer support do not impact service eligibility

#### **Eligible Service does not include:**

- Donating funds
- Political lobbying (Non-partisan voter registration is an eligible activity)
- Religious instruction
- Conducting worship service
- Proselytizing
- Volunteer service performed as part of court-ordered community service
- Serving only family members
- Teen Council Quarterly Meetings and Forums

#### **Included in the Award**

Award recipients will receive:

- The official President's Volunteer Service Award pin
- Personalized certificate of achievement
- Personalized letter signed by the President of the United States

## Cary Teen Council PVSA FAQ's

***How do I submit my hours to be reviewed by the CTC advisors?*** On March 1, we will send out a link for a Google Form for those to apply for the PVSA award. We will also send a **PDF PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD - VOLUNTEER TRACKING SHEET.**

Applicants will log all of their hours within this PDF. CTC advisors will review each application and let the candidate know if the application was approved, denied, or needs more information.

***When will the application be open? How will we find it?*** **The application will be open from April 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and close May 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m.** (2 weeks). The Google Form link will be sent by email to the Cary Teen Council and will also be posted on both our website and Instagram.

***I turned 16 years old a few months ago. How do I know if I qualify as a teen or young adult?*** If you turned 16 years old before June 1, 2024, then you are considered a Young Adult for this year's award

***Do all my Teen Council hours count toward the PVSA award?*** Forum series and quarterly meeting hours do not count toward the PVSA award since you are not actively volunteering at these types of events.

***How can I reach the hours requirement when there is a shift limit each month for Cary Teen Council members?*** Cary Teen Council does not guarantee teens will earn enough hours within our organization to get the PVSA. Our organization focuses on providing opportunities for each member to earn 15 hours. Teens and their guardians can reach out to other organizations in the community if looking for more community service opportunities.

***I volunteer with another organization apart from Cary Teen Council. Can these hours be considered for my award?*** Volunteer hours with different organizations or causes can count toward the award, if they meet the within the eligibility requirements (please see question below for list of non-eligible activities). If you want to use volunteer hours from outside of the Cary Teen Council volunteer opportunities, you need to list the name and email address of the adult coordinator in case we need to reach out for additional information.

***I submitted my hours to another Certifying Organization earlier this year. Am I allowed to make another submission to receive an award for my work with Cary Teen Council?*** An individual may only be recognized from one Certifying Organization within a 12-month period. However, if you wish to include your hours from Cary Teen Council hours for

recognition by the other certifying organization, we are always happy to provide a letter verifying your hours within their allotted 12-month period.

***I'm in the process of applying for college or a scholarship and have accumulated sufficient hours to meet the PVSA requirements. Can I include this information in my application?*** While we cannot confirm that an individual has received the award until it is officially verified and granted by the PVSA committee in April, we are more than willing to acknowledge that the students are actively pursuing this accomplishment and have attained a certain number of hours toward fulfilling the award criteria.