

East High School

Silver Cord Society

A Service-Based Student Organization

Advisor: Mr. Dreessen



Who is Eligible?

All East High students who would like to help the community and others.

How do I qualify to receive the Silver Cord for Graduation?

Students must complete a minimum of forty hours of committee-approved community service in their sophomore, junior, and senior years at East High School. **You cannot average 40 hours over the three year span; forty hours must be completed within each school year.**

Freshman students may start earning hours during the summer after their Freshman year. These hours will be applied toward the hours needed for Grade 10. Our goal is to instill the idea of community service as a life-long pursuit. If students successfully complete the amount of hours necessary they will receive a silver cord to wear at commencement similar to the gold cords worn by academic award winners.

Important Details:

Documentation: Students **MUST** document all service activities on the Silver Cord Award Form provided by East High – **one form for each site or project**, signed by a supervisor at the site. *(A note confirming the students' service signed by the supervisor at the project is also acceptable. It must be attached to the Silver Cord Form).* Forms can be submitted to Mrs. Benson at East High School at any time during the year. For sophomores and juniors: if you don't turn in forms by the end of the school year, you may submit them at any time during the following fall. There is no specific deadline for underclassmen to submit forms, although it is best to turn them in as soon as they are completed. **Seniors should submit all Silver Cord forms by May 1st of senior year.** Forms may be picked up from the Office or can be printed using the link below.

<http://www.siouxcityschools.org/east-high-school/general-academic-information-2/>

Summer Service

Service hours earned during the summer after the academic year may be applied toward EITHER the prior or following school year – student's choice. (For example, the summer after the sophomore year can apply toward either the sophomore or junior 40 hour requirement or divided between the two as needed). ***It is recommended that all summer projects be pre-approved in writing by Mr. Dreessen to make sure they are acceptable.*** Pre-approval forms are available in the Office (or on the Documentation page) and should be submitted 2 weeks before final exams. Summer service that complies with the Silver Cord criteria will be accepted even if students were not able to submit pre-approval forms. Students should pick up blank Silver Cord Award forms before the end of school to use for documenting summer service. Please keep completed forms until you return to East in the fall. The Silver Cord Adviser will be responsible for keeping students' Silver Cord files.

Important details regarding the Silver Cord Award:

Acceptable service activities: Silver Cord hours must be for providing a **SERVICE** or meeting a clear **NEED** for a non-profit agency, church, school, park, charity program, fundraiser or community event. The service should be “above and beyond” one’s usual scope of involvement and could be part of required service for a program such as Scouts or religious education. While some organizations meet during the school day, only hours outside of school time could be applied to Silver Cord service. For example, Friendship Connections is an East High group that meets, at times, during the school day. Those hours would not be eligible, but any work done outside the normal school day could be applied. If there is any question about whether a specific volunteer experience meets the criteria of “providing a service” or “meeting a need” students should get prior approval from the Silver Cord Committee by submitting a pre-approval form. The Silver Cord Review Committee makes final determinations regarding service.

Organizations/Activities that have been approved:

- American Heart Association
- Art Splash
- Beyond the Bell
- Big Brother/Big Sisters
- Blood Bank/Blood Drives
- Camp Goodwill
- EHS Eastop Café (Van Peursem)
- EHS Food For Thought Bags (Mrs. Elder)
- EHS Thrift Shop (Mrs. Elder)
- EHS Tutoring Thursday Night Club (McCaslen-Hibbs)
- Food Bank
- Friendship Connections
- Goodwill
- Gospel Mission
- Habitat for Humanity
- Head Start
- Her Health Women’s Center
- Humane Society
- Junior League
- LaunchPAD Children’s Museum
- Local church activities
- Local medical centers
- Mid Steps Services
- Peer Tutoring/Extended
- Ragbrai
- Red Cross
- Ronald McDonald House
- S.T.A.R.S.
- Salvation Army
- Santa House
- Siouxland Dive Team
- Siouxland Soup Kitchen
- Special Olympics
- The Evelyn Larson Theatre
- United Way
- Watchful Eye Foundation
- YMCA

There is a terrific resource for students who are working on earning their Silver Cord or meeting community service requirements. This is an online volunteer center for Siouxland, there are now more than 100 nonprofit organizations on VolunteerSiouxland.org, with more than 50 active needs for volunteers on any given day. It is absolutely the EASIEST way for students to find and sign up for volunteer opportunities. It’s also the easiest way to track their volunteer hours – confirmed by the organization. We’ve even added a field to volunteer profiles so they can identify which school they attend, allowing us to provide reports to the schools. And, it’s completely free for the organizations and the volunteers! Finding volunteer opportunities has NEVER been easier!

Important details regarding the Silver Cord Award:

Silver Cord hours **CANNOT BE** for a relative, or for pay or compensation of any kind. Other activities that would not be acceptable: EHS sports team managing, training or event timing or administration; *most* EHS music program events; concession stand or fundraising events in which proceeds benefit a EHS program; serving as a camp counselor *while receiving free room and board* (some exceptions made for camps for children with disabilities); performing in a musical, dance, or theater group unless related to a social cause or charity benefit; participation on committees in which the focus is on one’s own leadership development and does not include outreach to larger community. Court ordered community service hours are not eligible.

