

LIVE UNITED



**United Way
of Olmsted County**

903 West Center Street, Suite 100
Rochester, MN 55902

**DEADLINE FOR
APPLICATION IS
OCTOBER 2, 2021**

Submit materials to:

United Way of Olmsted County
903 W Center St Suite 100
Rochester, MN 55902

Questions?

Amy Wilfahrt
507-535-5502

amyw@uwolmsted.org
<http://www.uwolmsted.org/vlcs>

What to expect after you apply:

- You will be notified upon receipt of your application via email or phone by 10/15/21.
- You will then be notified of your award status by 12/1/21.

VARSITY LETTER IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

2020/2021 School Year

United Way of Olmsted County partners with Olmsted County high schools to recognize and reward students for their volunteer efforts in the community. Students who volunteer 100 or more hours of service in a year can earn their school varsity letter, the same as those earned in academics, arts, athletics, etc.

Applicants must meet the following basic qualifications:

- Be a student in grades 9 -12, attending a school in Olmsted County during the 2020/2021 school year. Homeschooled students affiliated with the school district are also eligible to apply.
- Complete at least 100 hours of community service from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.
- Must complete at least 60 hours locally (maximum of 40 hours performed outside of Olmsted County/SE Minnesota).
- Must complete at least 40 hours of non-school related volunteering (e.g. a nonprofit or civic service).
- Must complete at least one school-related volunteer activity (no hour requirement).
- All volunteer activities must be photographed or verified by the volunteer supervisor on organization letterhead.

Application requirements:

- Please paperclip or enclose materials in envelope (no staples).
- MUST be legible and written in pen or typed (no pencil).
- Your application must be **RECEIVED** by October 2, 2021 (applications may be mailed, delivered in person, or emailed). *All volunteer hours you have completed since October 1, 2020 count toward your final completed hours.*

VISIT US ONLINE AT www.uwolmsted.org/vlcs
OR CONTACT AMY WILFAHRT AT 507-535-5502 OR
amyw@uwolmsted.org FOR MORE INFORMATION.

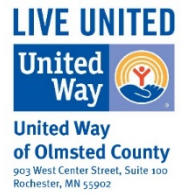
OFFICE USE ONLY:

LCS# _____

WS# _____

CALLS: _____

VARSITY LETTER IN COMMUNITY SERVICE APPLICATION



Deadline October 2, 2021

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Name Pronunciation: _____

(This information is provided for the award ceremony. Please include first & last name, e.g. Jane Doewirth = Jayne Doe-Worth)

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

High School: _____ Expected Graduation Year: _____

Please choose one of the following options:

- I have previously received a Varsity Letter in Community Service.
- I have previously received a Varsity Letter for a different activity (academics, arts, athletics, etc.).
- The Varsity Letter in Community Service would be my first Varsity Letter.

How many hours did you volunteer?

- _____ Total number of hours served through school-related activities (at least one activity)
- + _____ Total number of hours served outside of school related activities (at least 40 hours)
- = _____ **Total number of hours served between 10/01/20 and 9/30/21 (at least 100 hours)**

Student Agreement:

I attest that I performed the documented hours of community service included in the verification forms and met all qualifications as outlined by the United Way of Olmsted County. To my knowledge, these hours are valid and count toward my earning the Varsity Letter in Community Service.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Agreement:

I hereby assign to United Way of Olmsted County all rights to video and audio recordings and all photographs of my child made in connection with Varsity Letter in Community Service activities. I hereby authorize editing, duplication, reproduction, copyright, exhibition, broadcast and/or other use and distribution of such recordings or quotations for purposes deemed suitable by United Way of Olmsted County. I also waive any right to approve or disapprove the finished products.

Parent/Guardian First and Last Name Printed: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

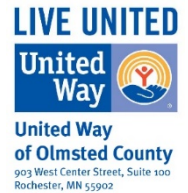
*Email Address: _____

**We would also like the opportunity to keep you informed of other United Way of Olmsted County programs. Please provide your email address to be added to our confidential mailing list and receive quarterly United Way of Olmsted County Newsletters.*

VARSITY LETTER IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

2020/2021 School Year






Required Volunteer Time

The Varsity Letter in Community Service Program recognizes students that volunteer 100 hours in one school year (served between 10/01/20 and 9/30/21). With 52 weeks in a year, that is equivalent to about 2 hours per week.

Qualifying Volunteer Activities

United Way's mission is to unite people and resources to improve people's lives in our community. We fight for the education, health, and financial stability of every individual, and encourage students to volunteer in those three community impact areas.

The following opportunities are *examples* that qualify for Varsity Letter in Community Service. You may also use [Get Connected](#), United Way of Olmsted's online volunteer portal, to find local opportunities.

Type of Volunteerism	 Education	 Health	 Financial Stability
<p>GENERAL examples</p> <p><i>What general types of volunteer activities are accepted?</i></p> <p><i>How can I help fight for education, health, and financial stability?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tutor/mentor - Teach a language - Assist a teacher - Teach a form of art - Share your musical talent - Volunteer at your local library - Participate in a community service club - Donate activity kits with books, games, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Play games at a nursing home - Volunteer as a coach - Volunteer at a medical center - Pick up litter - Community garden - Be a pen pal - Help the volunteer firefighter department - Volunteer at a local farmers market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support those with disabilities to live independently - Help at a food bank - Snow removal or yardwork for seniors - Help with a collection drive/fundraising event - Serve a community meal - Sew blankets, pillows, etc. to donate
<p>SPECIFIC examples</p> <p><i>What specific programs are available to volunteer with in Olmsted County?</i></p> <p><i>What local programs support education, health, and financial stability?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Living Room Tutors - Key Club or National Honors Society community service - FFA, 4-H, Girl/Boy Scouts community service - YMCA or other after-school youth programs - Stewartville Sportman's Club - Sing or perform at a local nursing home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RNeighbors "A Litter Bit Better" annual event - Adopt-A-Spot (rivers, highways, etc.) with Public Works - Special Olympics MN coach or volunteer - Rochester Farmers Market - Revolutionary Earth Farm - American Red Cross 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Step up to SIT - Local food shelf - Family Service Rochester's "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" - Channel One Regional Food Bank - Donate blankets or sewn items to Olmsted Medical Center or Project Linus of SE MN - Kiwanis or Lions Club fundraising events - Stewartville Volunteer Fire Department

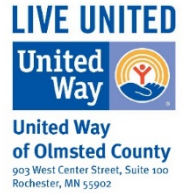
What if my volunteer activity doesn't fit in the categories of health, education, or financial stability?

United Way of Olmsted County encourages volunteer opportunities in these specific areas of community impact. However, there are many local nonprofits within different areas. **Example** opportunities that would fall in the "Other" category include animal shelters, arts/humanities, business leagues, churches/religious organizations, and social/recreation clubs with 501(c)(3) status. Please check the appropriate box on the verification form (page 4).

VARSITY LETTER IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

VOLUNTEER HOUR VERIFICATION

Deadline October 2, 2021



A copy of this paper form OR [Google Form \(https://forms.gle/G8eq8qPrfafHz2FZ6\)](https://forms.gle/G8eq8qPrfafHz2FZ6) must be completed for EACH agency (nonprofit organization, school, or club) for which you volunteered. For paper forms, duplicate this page as necessary. For Google Forms, submit the electronic form as many times as necessary. (i.e. Submit one form with the total # of hours spent with Key Club).

Student Name: _____ **Total # of volunteer hours with this agency:** _____

Name of volunteer agency (nonprofit organization, school, or club): _____

Name and Title of Volunteer Supervisor: _____

*Amy Wilfahrt, Outreach Coordinator, serves as your Volunteer Supervisor for United Way of Olmsted County.

When did you volunteer? (Date(s) must fall between 10/1/2020 & 9/30/2021)

Ongoing volunteer _____ One-time volunteer _____
Please list time frame *Please list specific date*

This volunteer opportunity is: School related Non-school related (outside of school activities)

This volunteer opportunity supports: Education Health Financial Stability Other: _____

Briefly describe the community service you performed.

What have you learned about yourself through this volunteer experience?

What have you learned about your community through this volunteer experience?

Please verify your volunteer experience by completing ONE of the following options (please attach to your paper application OR upload electronically to the [VLCS Verification Google Folder](#)).

1. Submit a photo of this volunteer experience.

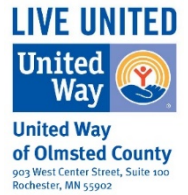
OR

2. Submit a piece of organization letterhead signed by the volunteer supervisor.

VARSITY LETTER IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

APPLICATION CHECK LIST

* Optional *



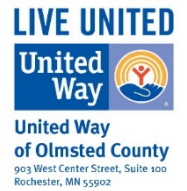
This checklist is to help you ensure that your application is complete. This does not need to be included with your application.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions about your volunteer work and how to count it at <http://www.uwolmsted.org/vlcs> or 507-535-5502.

- I am a student in grades 9 -12, attending a school in Olmsted County during the 2020/2021 school year, or a homeschooled student affiliated with the school district
- I included the student information page of the application with my signature and the signature of my parent/guardian
- I included paper OR electronic verification forms (page 3 of application OR [Google Form](#)) documenting all of my volunteer work that I would like considered for this award
- All of my volunteer activities are photographed or verified by the volunteer supervisor on organization letterhead (attached or [uploaded electronically](#))
- I completed at least 100 hours of community service from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021
- I have at least one school-related volunteer activity
- At least 40 of my total hours are non-school related volunteer activities with one or more non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) status
- At least 60 of my total hours are local (completed in Olmsted County/SE MN).
- I have made a copy of my application for my future reference
- I am confident that my documented volunteer work is not being counted for graduation or class requirements

VARSITY LETTER IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



1. The requirements state that I must complete at least 40 hours in a “non-school activity”. What type of volunteer work counts as a non-school activity?

Volunteer work must be completed with a non-profit organization with a 501(c)(3) status. Listed on page 3 are just a few ideas; there are many ways to volunteer in your community. If you have further questions or need ideas, please visit Get Connected at: <http://volunteer.uwolmsted.org/>

If you're uncertain about whether volunteer work you're doing could be counted towards the Varsity Letter in Community Service, please email amyw@uwolmsted.org or call 507-535-5502 to verify before you start.

2. The requirements state that I have to complete at least one “school activity”. What types of volunteer work count as a school activity, and how many hours do I need?

The following is a list of activities that can be done in school. These are just a few ideas, not a complete list. If you are uncertain if an activity counts, please email amyw@uwolmsted.org or call 507-535-5502 to verify before you start.

- *Participating in a community service project through a school club (National Honor Society, Key Club, etc.)*
- *Assisting a teacher before, during, or after school, or during the summer*
- *Assisting at sporting events, concerts, theater productions (if not required for a class)*
- *Tutoring peers through a school tutoring program (If tutoring hours are performed, please list the school volunteer supervisor as the contact, not the tutee or the tutee's parent/guardian).*

There is NO hour requirement for school-related activities. Sometimes, work done through a school group can be counted as school related OR non-school related work. For example, if the work was done with an outside organization (e.g. Participating in Relay for Life as a Key Club member), you may count the hours where you need them.

3. Who should I list as my supervisor?

Your advisor is the adult supervisor, mentor, or advisor that has supervised your volunteer work and can verify that you volunteered with their group or organization. You MAY NOT list a student or peer as your contact supervisor.

4. I volunteered on a mission trip through my church, how do I count these hours?

The Varsity Letter in Community Service program targets volunteering locally in or near Olmsted County. If you volunteer on a mission trip or other volunteer vacation, the hours are calculated as follows:

During the school year: no more than 10 hours per day
During the summer: no more than 10 hours per day
No more than 40 hours total outside Olmsted County.

5. I volunteered as a camp counselor, how do I count those hours?

The Varsity Letter in Community Service program targets volunteering locally in or near Olmsted County. If you volunteer as a camp counselor, the hours are calculated as follows:

During the school year: no more than 10 hours per day
During the summer: no more than 10 hours per day
No more than 40 hours total outside Olmsted County.

6. I have to complete community service hours so that I can graduate. Can I count these hours?

Any community service or volunteer hours done to meet a graduation requirement DO NOT count.

7. I have to complete community service hours for a class. Can I count these hours?

Any community service or volunteer hours done as a class requirement DO NOT count.

8. Can I count my time helping with yard work or house work?

Any yard work or house work performed with a non-profit (such as Family Service Rochester's Neighbors

Helping Neighbors program) CAN be counted for this award. In cases where you are assisting an individual on your own, be a person in need, not related to you or living in the same household, please photograph the experience and include Amy Wilfahrt, Outreach Coordinator at United Way of Olmsted County, as your Volunteer Supervisor for that verification form.

9. I volunteered with a local company but wasn't paid for my work. Can I count these hours?

Unfortunately, no you cannot. If the company is not a nonprofit organization, we cannot count these hours. This includes many childcare facilities that are not non-profit organizations. Be sure to check with the organization you are volunteering with ahead of time to ensure they meet the guidelines.

10. Who do I contact for more information?

Amy Wilfahrt, United Way of Olmsted County Outreach Coordinator, amyw@uwolmsted.org, 507-535-5502.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Remember to track your volunteer hours as you perform them.
- Use the optional checklist provided in your application to ensure your application is complete.
- Remember that United Way of Olmsted County must receive your application by October 2, 2021.
- For volunteer work spent with one group or organization, you only need to complete one verification form (paper or electronic) summarizing all of your volunteer work for the timeframe.