

Q: What kind of projects will participants be assigned?

A: Some of the projects participants will be assigned are assisting with programs, helping create displays, organizing materials for programs, deep cleaning, and taking inventory of craft supplies. Participants may be asked to complete other types of projects as well, depending on what is needed at the time.

Q: What do participants get out of this?

A: Besides the obvious benefits of the program, such as work experience, volunteer hours, and application of critical thinking and problem solving skills, participants will receive a few other benefits for being a part of this program. Participants will receive their own OCPL volunteer t-shirts at the beginning of the program. Additionally, participants who successfully complete this program will be given generic reference letters from the Youth Services Librarian, Emily Johnson, to be used as needed for applications to jobs, afterschool activities, scholarships, and more. Participants may also contact the Youth Services Librarian for application-specific reference letters as needed. After successfully completing the program, participants will be invited to an end-of-program meal. Finally, a special prize will be awarded to the participant with the most volunteer hours at the end of the summer.

Q: When does this program take place?

A: This program will start at the beginning of May with a mandatory volunteer orientation. Volunteer hours will begin as early as the week of May 25 and will end around the week of July 27. A volunteer celebration meal will take place at the end of July or beginning of August.

Q: What is volunteer orientation like?

A: Participants and their parent(s) will be given information on the library and on the program itself. Participants will have the chance to familiarize themselves with the Walhalla branch and the Youth Services office and will be able to get to know each other and the Youth Services staff. At the end of the orientation, participants and their parent(s) will be asked to sign a Youth Services Volunteer Agreement.

Q: Who is invited to apply?

A: Homeschoolers ages 12-17 are invited to apply. Next year, we may open it up to a broader range of students, including public schoolers.

Q: How many participant spots are available?

A: 6 spots are available this year. Next year, we may open it up to more participants depending on interest and capacity.

Q: How do I apply?

A: In order to apply, each applicant must fill out and submit the "VIP" Youth Service Application Form, write and submit a typed 500-word essay explaining how this experience will help them achieve their future goals, and submit one (1) personal character reference letter from an adult who is not related to them. The "VIP" Youth Service Application Form is a paper that can be

found at any of our branches. We ask that applicants bring in hard copies of their completed forms, essays, and reference letters to any of our library branches.

Q: When can I apply?

A: We will begin accepting applications on March 2. All applications must be submitted by April 17.

Q: How many hours a week will participants be required to serve?

A: Participants will be required to serve a minimum of five (5) hours a week. This can be divided up however the participants desire. Participants are welcome to serve more hours as desired; in fact, a prize will be awarded to the participant who has the most hours served at the end of the summer.

Q: What if participants have to miss hours due to family vacation or personal illness?

A: With a signed note from a parent, those hours would be exempted.

Q: Where will participants serve their hours?

A: All participants will serve their hours at the main branch in Walhalla, High Falls County Park, or South Cove County Park.

Didn't find an answer to the question you had? Feel free to contact us directly! Our emails and phone numbers are below.

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