

Dear Silver Cords student participants,

Thank you all for volunteering your time in the community. A strong school and strong community go hand in hand. You should be commended for taking on these tasks.

The Silver Cords committee wishes to address a number of items that will become effective on June 1, 2016.

First, in accordance with the program goals and mission, students who volunteer in the community must acquire **150 hours at a minimum 4 locations** throughout their high school career. This change will be retroactive to any service provided since freshman year.

Second, in accordance with our current guidelines, HHS students who are performing community service hours as a part of, a function of, and/or a requirement of their HHS team sport, HHS activity, or HHS club, will not be awarded Silver Cords hours for doing so. For example, students in National Honor Society are required to perform community service hours for this organization. These hours will not count toward Silver Cords acquisition. In connection, if an HHS team sport requires community service projects as a part of the team, these hours will not be granted. Silver Cords hours must be acquired separately from any HHS club, HHS sport or HHS activity that requires community service. We do not monitor hours earned outside the Silver Cords program.

Third, before you begin your Silver Cords hours, please be certain that the organization in which you are volunteering your time *is on the approved provider list*. Only designated contact persons may sign off on student volunteer hours. Again, we wish to keep the designed integrity of the program and only allow approved institutions and persons to award these prestigious hours. We want to be confident that Silver Cords hours earned and agencies participating are approved prior to beginning any acquisition of volunteer hours.

Fourth, to assist the committee with record keeping, please notify the HHS Silver Cords committee of any contact changes within your agency. If the individual that is authorized to sign-off on volunteer hours has changed, please notify the committee immediately.

Finally, Silver Cords Committee meets to review correspondence once per month. Should any of the above mentioned changes need clarification or should any questions arise, please contact Hickory High School at your convenience. Please know that this program grew from a simple idea and has blossomed into one of the Hermitage School District's most rewarding and beneficial concepts. Please continue to support the ideals and traditions of this endeavor.