

Coon Rapids-Bayard Community Schools

CR-B Cares Service Program

Overview

In an effort to fulfill the school district's mission to "inspire and develop responsible, life-long learners" and accomplish its goal to produce students who "have the skills, habits, and traits of character for leading healthy, productive lives as responsible, contributing members of the community," **CR-B Cares** seeks to encourage students to invest their time and talents in volunteerism and community service projects. Students in grades 8-12 may begin accumulating *CR-B Cares* hours on May 1st of their 8th grade year, and those who have volunteered 150 hours by May 1st of their Senior year will have the honor of wearing a *Silver Cord* during their graduation ceremony.

Documentation & Acceptable Service Activities

Volunteer service hours must meet a clear need, be *pre-approved*, and documented by a non-relative supervisor. Completed service activities then must be submitted to the student's advisor and logged on the student's *CR-B Cares* service record. All forms and documentation must be submitted within two weeks of the service/volunteer experience, or within the first two weeks of school if the experience occurred over the summer. For seniors, forms must be turned in by May 1.

Students *may* earn up to *maximum* of 75 hours volunteering for a Coon Rapids-Bayard school organization, group, or club as long as:

- School credit, varsity athletic letter, or extra-curricular club recognition is not given.
- The student or organization the student belongs to receives financial benefit or other compensation. This includes revenues from direct sales, fundraisers, or donations.
 - Exception: the organization donates the profits to charity.

Students **must** earn a **minimum** 75 hours volunteering for an individual, organization, and/or cause outside of Coon Rapids-Bayard school organizations, groups, or clubs:

- *CR-B Cares* hours should not be directly involved with rituals, services, or ceremonies that a student is already a member of. Examples of invalid activities include, but are not limited to: singing in a church choir, candle lighting, reading from religious texts, etc. Examples of accepted religious activities include, but are not limited to: mission trips, assisting with weekly bible school or vacation bible school, etc.
- A student may earn a maximum of 12 hours in any one-day, and no more than 25 hours per activity or event.

Non-acceptable service activities include, but are not limited to:

- Working, doing chores, for a family member for "free"
- Random acts of kindness (holding a door open, etc.)
- Working for a political party or candidate's campaign.
- Service that is required as part of a good conduct violation, court ordered, or a result of other disciplinary action.
- Travel, meals, and breaks should not be included as service hours.
- When in doubt, obtain pre-approval.

Recognition & Awards

In addition to building their resumes for employers and colleges, students will be recognized amongst their peers in Advisory and in the local newspapers when they reach the following milestones:

Middle School

- 10 hours: CR-B Cares t-shirt
- 20 hours: CR-B Cares t-shirt
- 40 hours: CR-B Cares t-shirt & CR-B Cares certificate
- 80 hours: CR-B Cares t-shirt & CR-B Cares capstone field trip

High School

- 25 hours: CR-B Cares t-shirt
- 50 hours: CR-B Cares t-shirt
- 100 hours: CR-B Cares t-shirt & CR-B Cares medallion
- 150 hours: CR-B Cares t-shirt & Silver Cord presented at Senior Awards Night

How do I begin?

1. Speak to your advisor, a local organization, or someone you notice has a need.
 - Remember *CR-B Cares* hours must meet a clearly defined need for an individual, organization, and/or cause.
2. Pickt up a CRT B Cares Form from your Advisor, the Library, or download it from the School's Website.
 - Obtain your Parent/Guardian's signature.
 - Obtain your Advisor's, Mr. Orlando, Mrs. Davis, **or** Mr. Frakes' signature.
3. Complete your service
 - Obtain the signature of the Individual/Event Organizer.
4. Reflect on your service
 - a. Use the CRT B Cares Reflection Form found in your Google Drive.
5. Volunteer again!

FAQs

1. What about summer service?
 - Students may complete a CR-B Cares form year-round. Students will need to keep all forms and turn them in to their Advisor by September 15 of each new school year.
2. I'm a new student, do I still have to accumulate 150 hours to obtain a Silver Cord?
 - No – new students will have a pro-rated number of hours based upon their enrollment date.
3. Why is there a limit to the number of hours volunteered for school activities?
 - The purpose of CR-B Cares service program is to “inspire and develop responsible, life-long learners,” by encouraging students to invest their time and talents in volunteerism and community service projects. We value our students giving back to CR-B schools, however our goal is to reach out to our communities and serve those individuals and organizations that are in need.
4. Can I lose hours?
 - No. *CR-B Cares* hours cannot be revoked.
5. I helped with the track meet. May I use this as *CR-B Cares* hours?
 - This depends on if you are a member of the middle school or high school track team. If your Coach assigned you to help, then NO.
 - But, if you are not a member of the team, or your Coach has not assigned you to help – and you volunteered on your own, then YES.
6. I helped Mr. Orlando work a concession stand. May I use this as *CR-B Cares* hours?
 - This depends. If you are a member of NHS or another organization that Mr. Orlando sponsors than probably NO.
 - But, if your organization will be donating the proceeds from working the concession stand to a specific cause, the YES.
7. I helped my neighbor shovel her driveway after we got 10 inches of snow. May I use this as *CR-B Cares* hours?
 - YES – as long as you were not paid. You will need your neighbor to sign the CR-B Cares Form.
8. I babysat for free, can I count these hours?
 - YES – so long as you were not paid and you did not baby sit for a family member.
9. Will all my hours I turn in count?
 - Not necessarily.
 - All forms and documentation must be verified, and you must complete the CR-B Cares *reflection form* by May 1 to be recognized.
 - If questions arise, a review of the activity will be conducted and a decision will be made by the CR-B Cares committee.