

Urbandale School District and Urbandale Community Action Network (UCAN) introduce:

## URBANDALE SILVER CORD PROGRAM

### ***What is the Silver Cord Program?***

The Silver Cord is a distinguished graduation award available to Urbandale High School seniors who volunteer a specified number of hours during each year of high school. Upon completion of hours, participants will receive a Silver Cord to wear on their robes at graduation in recognition of their achievement.

The purpose of the Silver Cord program is to encourage students to experience the joy of giving back to the community. Volunteerism provides life lessons and experiences that are valuable to students and everyone throughout the community, and it encourages lifelong service to humanity. Volunteerism is also an important component in learning to work with others, taking on leadership roles and gaining work experience in areas of career interest. Colleges and employers seek out students who have volunteer experience in their communities.

### ***What are the volunteer service hour requirements?***

Total volunteer hour requirements will be prorated based on the creation of the Silver Cord Program in Summer, 2014. To earn a Silver Cord, students will need to complete the following by May 1 of their graduation year:

<i>Graduating class of 2015:</i>	30 total service hours
<i>Graduating class of 2016:</i>	70 total service hours for at least two different organizations
<i>Graduating class of 2017:</i>	110 total service hours for at least three different organizations
<i>Graduating class of 2018:</i>	150 total service hours for at least four different organizations
<i>Graduating classes of 2019 and beyond:</i>	160 total service hours for at least four different organizations

Students may begin to earn hours on June 1 at the end of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. In 2014, students may begin to earn volunteer hours on August 18, and underclassmen must earn 30 hours before May 30 to continue with the program. After the 2014-15 school year, students must volunteer 40 hours between June 1 and May 30 each year to continue to be eligible for the program. The year of the student's graduation, hours must be earned by May 1.

### ***What volunteer hours qualify?***

Volunteer work must fulfill a need with a nonprofit agency, school, church, or community organization. A list of volunteer opportunities will be posted on the Silver Cord website, and students are encouraged to seek out additional opportunities of interest and submit them for pre-approval (email us at [silvercord@urbandalenetwork.org](mailto:silvercord@urbandalenetwork.org)) before working the hours. All volunteer hours must be confirmed by an authorized organization representative.

Work will not qualify for Silver Cord hours if a varsity letter, school credit, grade, or financial compensation is given, nor if an organization the student belongs to receives financial compensation for the work.

### ***How do I get started?***

Getting started is easy! Sign up online at [www.urbandalenetwork.org/noblehour](http://www.urbandalenetwork.org/noblehour), and browse through the list of volunteer opportunities to find a great fit!

Email us at [silvercord@urbandalenetwork.org](mailto:silvercord@urbandalenetwork.org) with questions!

