

Turkey Valley Honor Cord Program

This is a single, dual, or triple cord program for academics, school spirit, and community service through leadership. Students who have a 3.5 cumulative GPA at the end of the sophomore year and maintain it at each semester of junior and senior years are eligible for the Turkey Valley Triple Cord Program. They will be able to work toward the triple cord honor: academic, school spirit, and community service and leadership.

Students who do not meet the 3.5 academic requirement are able to choose a Turkey Valley Dual Cord or a Turkey Valley Single Cord option for school spirit and/or community service and leadership.

Our goal statement:

"As members of the Turkey Valley Honor Cord Program, we are committed to academic and social development in ourselves, our school, and our communities. We will display academic integrity, strong character that demonstrates school spirit in all interactions, and service through leadership in our communities. Through these endeavors, we will encourage excellence at Turkey Valley."

Academic Cord

In order to earn an academic cord, all work must be authentic and completed to your highest standards. You are committed to encouraging excellence from your classmates. Expectations of each classroom are followed. You show individual growth and personal interest in the pursuit of knowledge. Students who maintain the 3.5 cumulative GPA as listed above will earn a GOLD cord.

School Spirit

Do the right thing when nobody is watching as well as when they are. Bring honor to your school by following the established rules while working for changing the rules you find unjust. Encourage achievements in all groups you are involved in. Consider the way you are treating others and be a positive force in the lives of others in and around Turkey Valley. As a demonstration of your school spirit, you must be involved in at least four extracurricular activities during each school year. Meeting these standards for both the junior and senior year will earn a WHITE cord. These activities include:

Musical

Play

Large group speech or Individual speech

Sports managers or statisticians

Yearbook

FFA

Band (Honor Band, UIC, Dorian, jazz, pep, marching, and solo and ensemble contests)

Choir through solo and ensemble contests

Volleyball, football, baseball, softball, basketball, wrestling, track, cross country, cheerleaders, trap shooting

GEL, TATU, YODA

Puppet Pals

Student Senate

National History Day

In order to show your dedication to Turkey Valley Community School, you will choose at least two different ways to promote the activities and involvement within the school. These might include:

- A letter or summary to the school newsletter about one activity
- An announcement to have others join the group on daily announcements/PA
- An announcement as a room-to-room activity during advisory-advisee time
- Creating bulletin boards for the advisor and activity
- Creating and hanging posters for the activities

*You must share your participation and your method of promoting the activity to have the activity counted by the following dates:

Summer activity promotions are due by September 1.

Fall activity promotions are due by December 1.

Winter activity promotions are due by April 1.

Spring and full year activity promotions are due by May 1 for Seniors and May 20 for Juniors.

Community Service and Leadership

Choose activities that highlight your personal concerns for those in need, the environment, or established organizations. A form similar to the Senior Careers service will be used, but service to your usual community groups can be used. Each candidate must serve at least 30 hours per year in a minimum of three different activities. These could cover church, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Relay for Life, visiting elderly, cleaning highways, working at the Gala or blood-mobile. A BLACK cord will be earned if a student proves 30 hours or more of volunteerism during each of the junior and senior years, for a total of 60 hours before graduation.

Acceptable community resources include, but are not limited to:

4H

Girl Scouts

Lions

Work with the Veterans (serving meals, cleaning cemeteries, hanging flags)

Food pantries (collecting foods or stocking shelves)

Serving at local meal sites, town celebrations

Boy Scouts

Relay for Life

Gala

P-T conferences

Turkey Valley Blood Drive

Church groups (above and beyond regular services: funerals, meals, benefits, choir, clean-up)

Little league coaches (unpaid)

Habitat for Humanity

Clean up days in towns, parks and cemeteries

Concession stand workers

*It is up to each student to turn in hours to the binder in Mrs. Holmes' room and to tally the hours on the service hour sheet located in the same binder.

Summer serviced hours are due by September 1.

Fall service hours are due by December 1.

Winter service hours are due by April 1.

Spring and full year service hours are due by May 1 for Seniors and May 20 for Juniors.

In a continuing process to improve the programs and to reinforce the vision of our school district, we are proposing changes to the current National Honor Society program. Through discussions with our current NHS members, with previous graduates and NHS members, and with student teachers in our classrooms from the local universities, we have heard repeatedly that volunteerism rates higher on scholarship and job applications than a simple GPA. For this reason, we wished to raise the commitment of the current group of academically eligible students to achieve service and leadership opportunities and to open the door for other students to add service and leadership hours to enhance their job and college applications.

We feel the changes we are proposing for the new Turkey Valley Honor Cord Program meet the expectation of the vision for our schools, which states, "In our ongoing quest for excellence, Turkey Valley School District educates and empowers learners to reach their full potential through high student achievement, life-long learning skills, and responsible productive citizenship."