



Volunteer Tennessee



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VOLUNTEER TENNESSEE ANNOUNCES 2019 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE HONOREES

Sixteen schools recognized for their commitment to service

(Nashville, TN — February 19, 2020) — Volunteer Tennessee’s Award of Excellence program recently recognized sixteen schools from across the state for their outstanding commitment to service. The 2019 Award of Excellence honorees were announced at the 2020 Tennessee Conference on Volunteerism and Service-Learning in Franklin on February 11. First Lady Maria Lee was the featured speaker during the recognition event and presented the awards to the schools with Volunteer Tennessee’s Board Chair, [Tina Hodges](#).

“It was an honor to join Volunteer Tennessee in recognizing schools from across the state that have gone above and beyond at incorporating service-learning into their classrooms to spark community change and transform students into servant leaders,” said First Lady Maria Lee.

To be considered for the Award of Excellence, schools complete an application and submit a letter from a school administrator indicating their commitment to service. Critical areas of focus as high quality educational opportunities are food security, mentorship of school aged children, and homelessness, though all focus areas were eligible and encouraged to apply.

Volunteer Tennessee’s board of commissioners launched the School Award of Excellence program in 2017 to provide annual recognition for K-12 schools engaged in exemplary service, service-learning, and volunteerism. The purpose of this recognition is to promote youth engagement in the improvement of their local communities.

Please visit www.volunteertennessee.net to find photos of the school honorees and learn more about the Award of Excellence Program.

Below is a list of the 2019 School Award of Excellence Honorees:

- **Beacon Academy**
Collegedale, TN
Contact: Brigett Pangkey, Principal
951-295-4225, principal@beaconacademy.us
- **Central Magnet School**
Murfreesboro, TN
Contact: Allen Nichols, College and Advisory Coordinator

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THE MISSION OF VOLUNTEER TENNESSEE IS TO ENCOURAGE VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

615-653-6501, nicholsa@reschools.net

- **Dover Elementary School**
Dover, TN
Contact: Bryan Saunders, Principal
(931) 232-5442 bryansaunders@stewartcountyschools.org
- **Ensworth School - High School Division**
Nashville, TN
Contact: Mary Catherine Bradshaw
615-480-7117, bradshawm@ensworth.com
- **Friendship Christian School**
Lebanon, TN
Contact: Greg Armstrong
615-642-6864, garmstrong@fcsweb.net
- **Jackson Central-Merry Early College High School**
Jackson, TN
Contact: Nathan Lewis, Principal
731-589-1498, nflewis@jmcss.org
- **Jefferson County High School**
Dandridge, TN
Contact: Lani O'Connor, Service-Learning Teacher
304-840-4660, lo'connor@jcboe.net
- **Johnson County High School**
Mountain City, TN
Contact: Kayla Clawson, Assistant Principal
423-727-2668, kclawson@jocoed.net
- **Lipscomb Academy**
Nashville, TN
Contact: Betsy Thomas: Assistant Dean of Student Life
615-966-6411, betsy.thomas@lipscomb.edu
- **Middle Tennessee Christian School**
Murfreesboro, TN
Contact: Todd Miller, Director of Spiritual Life & Community Outreach
615-545-0906, toddmiller@mtcscougars.org
- **South Knoxville Elementary School**
Knoxville, TN
Contact: Dr. Tanna Nicely, principal
(865) 919-3193, tanna.nicely@knoxschools.org

- **South Pittsburg High School**
Pittsburg, TN
Contact: Elizabeth Mount, Co-Sponsor Interact Club
423-718-0213, emount@mctns.net
- **Unaka High School**
Elizabethton, TN
Contact: Marsha Greenwell, Graduation Coach
423-474-4100, marshagreenwell@carterk12.net
- **Union Elementary STEM and Demonstration School**
Gallatin, TN
Contact: Lance Taylor, Principal
615-452-0737, lance.taylor@sumnerschools.org
- **University School of Nashville**
Nashville, TN
Contact: Mike Jones, Director of Service Learning
615-491-4612, mjones@email.usn.org
- **Whitwell High School**
Whitwell, TN
Contact: Dr. Tiffany Gholston, Interact Club Sponsor
423-658-5141, tgholston@whitwelltigers.org

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Volunteer Tennessee is the 25-member bipartisan citizen board appointed by the Governor to oversee AmeriCorps and service-learning programs and to advance volunteerism and citizen service to solve community problems in the Volunteer State. For more information, visit www.volunteertennessee.net or visit us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).