



May 20, 2015

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Mayor Lisa Sulka Implements Inaugural Youth Community Service Award Program to Encourage and Acknowledge Students' Contributions to the Community

Mayor Lisa Sulka has created and implemented the Town's Youth Community Service Award Program to encourage and acknowledge the contributions of Bluffton's younger residents. This program is a venue for younger residents to invest their time and talent in community programs and be acknowledged for their service.

"One of the greatest traits of Bluffton's culture is its generosity. The concept of neighbors helping neighbors is very much alive in our town" Mayor Sulka said. "Having a program to acknowledge this trait in our younger residents is a win for everyone. This program provides a structure for high school students to make a difference. Our non-profits can tap into the talents of these energetic students and students will have a venue which potentially can enhance their college and employment applications."

This award program will provide high school sophomores and juniors recognition for their volunteerism in the greater Bluffton community. Mayor Lisa Sulka will acknowledge the students who volunteer at least 50 hours during the year.

The program requirements are as follows:

- Open to all rising high school sophomores and juniors attending public, private or home school in Bluffton.
- Volunteer hours must be earned between May 1st and April 30th of each calendar year.
- Volunteer hours must be served with a nonprofit organization providing services to the greater Bluffton community.

- Eligibility requirements:
 - Silver Award: 50 hours of volunteer service
 - Gold Award: 51-99 hours of volunteer service
 - Mayor's Exceptional Service Award: 100 or more hours of volunteer service
- All volunteer hours must be signed off by an organizational representative and by the student.
- The Volunteer Tracking Form is the only form which will be accepted for recording hours.
- Forms must be submitted to the Mayor's Office no later than April 30th to Kimberly Chapman at kchapman@townofbluffton.com.
- Students who earn an award will be recognized at an Awards Ceremony at Town Hall each spring.

If you need more information about this program, please call Kim Chapman (843) 706.4505.

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