

# VOLUSIA PARTNERS

## VOLUNTEER/PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS VOLUSIA COUNTY SCHOOLS



### OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Volusia Partners program is to encourage involvement of businesses and civic organizations in our schools; thereby enhancing student learning, enriching curriculum, and promoting school improvement.

### DESCRIPTION

Recognizing that a strong public school system is essential to the prosperity of our community, Volusia Partners take an active role in our schools. Partnership activities may include, but are not limited to:

- sponsorship of school events, programs or workshops
- student recognition and incentive awards
- financial contributions or donations of materials/equipment
- employee release time to mentor, tutor or read to students
- volunteers for school events
- adoption of a classroom, grade level or school
- career or topic speakers

Partnership agreements must be completed and signed annually after partnership activities are agreed upon.

### QUALIFICATIONS

Businesses or civic organizations of any size may serve as a Volusia Partner. Partnerships should be structured to meet the identified needs of the school. Schools often compile a “Wish List” for possible partnership activities. Businesses/organizations may also help School Advisory Councils achieve their identified objectives.

### TRAINING

Orientation and training is especially important when a partner becomes a classroom volunteer. Teachers provide direct training to classroom helpers and the district provides training to volunteer mentors.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call your local school and ask to talk with the business partner coordinator OR contact:

#### **Volunteer/Partnership Programs**

Volusia County Schools, EDC Atlantic

1250-A Reed Canal Road, Port Orange, FL 32129

(386) 255-6475, 734-7190, 427-5223, ext. 38379 or 38381

[www.vcsedu.org](http://www.vcsedu.org), select District>Volunteer/Partnership Programs

## **WHAT PARTNERS CAN DO FOR SCHOOLS**

- ☐ Provide release time for employees to tutor, mentor, or read to students.
- ☐ Encourage parental involvement for employees through worksite displays and/or publications.
- ☐ Provide incentives for students who have improved in attendance, academics, behavior, attitude, citizenship, etc.
- ☐ Provide career shadowing or career mentoring opportunities for students or teachers at the partner's site.
- ☐ Donate used equipment or surplus materials.
- ☐ Serve on the School Advisory Council.
- ☐ Serve as judges for various school events.
- ☐ Sponsor school beautification projects.
- ☐ Sponsor field trips.
- ☐ Offer field trips of your facility.
- ☐ Assist with the school newsletter or other publications.
- ☐ Provide display space for student artwork.
- ☐ Serve as guest speakers on career awareness topics or special interests.
- ☐ Provide an assembly program for students.
- ☐ Adopt a classroom, grade level, or school.
- ☐ Sponsor special programs or school clubs.
- ☐ Provide educational or curriculum support materials.
- ☐ Provide part-time employment for students.
- ☐ Provide seminars for students, parents, faculties, and/or administrators.
- ☐ Provide student internship opportunities.
- ☐ Provide tours or host meetings/special events.
- ☐ Assist with school fund-raising activities.
- ☐ Participate in school events.
- ☐ Provide recognition to teachers.
- ☐ Sponsor contests in art, writing, math, reading, etc.
- ☐ Offer free services that are unique to your business.
- ☐ Sponsor needy families at holidays.
- ☐ Provide scholarships.

## **WHAT SCHOOLS CAN DO FOR PARTNERS**

- ☐ Thank your partner often. Notes from students helped by the partnership are particularly effective.
- ☐ Provide end-of-year evaluations of partnership activities. Compare new data to baseline data.
- ☐ If your school has a monthly newsletter or calendar for parents, provide space for a partnership column.
- ☐ Provide space in the school to highlight partnership activities.
- ☐ Invite your partner to serve on advisory committees, task forces, etc.
- ☐ Put your partner on your mailing list. Communicate!
- ☐ Invite partners to all volunteer recognition events.
- ☐ Recognize new partnerships on the school marquee.
- ☐ Provide visibility by submitting partnership information to be used in press releases, human-interest articles, and school publicity.
- ☐ Give an update on partnership activities at PTA/PTSA/PTO meetings and introduce partners.
- ☐ Provide your partners with an inside look at your school. Tour the school and explain the curriculum.
- ☐ Encourage student groups to perform for company functions.
- ☐ Initiate a student Partners Club or have the Student Council assist with recognizing partnership activities.
- ☐ Obtain birthdays of employees and have children helped by partnership send birthday cards.
- ☐ Invite your partner to shadow a teacher or administrator.
- ☐ If applicable, have students submit designs that will be chosen by the partner for holiday cards or publications.
- ☐ Invite your partner to participate in community projects with your school, i.e. food baskets at Thanksgiving.
- ☐ Share school and student successes with partners, particularly where the partner has been involved.
- ☐ Ask business to participate in American Education Week activities (mid November).
- ☐ Thank your business during Florida School Volunteer Month (February) and National Volunteer Week (late April).
- ☐ Design a logo or utilize the business's logo to brand the individual partnership activities/programs.