

Community Service Learning Community Partner Application for Local and State Board Approval

School District Information

- Name of the School District Initiating this application: **Ouachita River School District**
- Name of the district/school licensed faculty supervisor(s) with whom non-profit/community organizations will be working: **William Edwards, Oden K-12 Principal & Apryl Philpot, Oden K-12 School Counselor**

Community Partner Information

- Name of non-profit/ community organization: **Ouachita Challenge 60 Mile Bike Tour & Race**
- Name of Director/ Contact Person: **Dawn Cecil**
- Address: **PO Box 295, Mena, AR 71953**
- Phone Number: **479-216-0348**
- Email Address: **scott.omca@gmail.com**
- Hours of operation: **Annually 4th Saturday & Sunday in March or 1st Saturday & Sunday in April**
- What is the mission of the non-profit/community organization? **The Ouachita Mountain Challenge Association Board of Directors is composed of individuals from several non-profit organizations. We conduct outdoor sports fundraising events for the purpose of donating to the local community. We organize and conduct a major mountain bike tour and race (The Ouachita Challenge) each spring. It's roughly 60 miles, over 5 mountains in the Ouachita National Forest, and covers 2 epic trails, the Ouachita and the Womble. Over the course of the 2 day event we have about 250 plus cyclists a day, from all over the country, and it takes over 100 Volunteers to make the event run smoothly. The events start and end at the Oden School, and several of the school clubs are there to assist the cyclists and volunteers as needed. With the exception of the Oden School, every organization that volunteers is community based and non-profit. Several local Volunteer Fire Departments, FoOt (Friends of the Ouachita Trail), the Polk County Development Center (provides services to the intellectually disabled), Casa (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and the Ouachita Amateur Radio Association (local and emergency communications.) When the event is concluded, all funds, with the exception of the next years start up money, are donated to community based, non-profit organizations. The local economy also benefits from the extra business in the area generated by The Ouachita Challenge.**
- What service(s) does the non-profit/community organization provide? **The Ouachita Challenge is an annual bike tour and race with 500 cyclists from around the world registered each year. The race and tour begin at Oden Schools in Oden, Arkansas and winding through IMBX Epic**

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trails in the Ouachita Mountains. Volunteers man the trails, aide stations, and registration for this annual event.

- Please describe the volunteer activities students will participate in at the non-profit/community organization and how those activities may connect to curriculum learning goals. The Act 648 implementation guide contains a breakdown of a few subject areas and goals. Students volunteer service to aid 500 cyclists by manning aid stations, event registration, and maintaining safety on trails. (See mission).
- What are the non-profit/community organization procedures and policies to ensure the safety of student volunteers? Students participate in mandatory safety procedural training prior to event and medical/fire/police personnel are on staff during event timeframe.
- List any special considerations of the non-profit/community organization. Students grades 9-12 from Oden Schools volunteer their time each year to learn and exercise key soft skills in working as a team and the public through effective problem-solving, interpersonal skills, and hard skills with event planning and logistics which includes: food service, lodging, custodial, and hospitality.

Local School Board approval of this site as a district partner



Signature of school board president

January 28, 2019

Date of meeting at which site was approved

Return completed application and this form to

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