

Community Service Learning Partner Application

****Please Complete Section 1 Only****

Students who have completed a minimum of 75 hours of documented community service, along with the required reflection component, in Grades 9-12 are eligible to receive one (1) career focus academic credit. This credit may be applied toward graduation for students graduating in Classes 2023 through 2026. 75 hours of community service is required for all Arkansas students graduating in the Class of 2027 and beyond.

Community service hours must be completed at a state-approved community organization or as part of a service-learning school program. Community or non-profit organizations may apply for state approval through the local school board as a community service learning site by completing this application.

FSPS Community Service Learning Coordinator: Dr. Tony Jones, Director of Secondary Education
Fort Smith Public Schools, 3205 Jenny Lind, Fort Smith, AR 72903 (479) 785-2501.

The Community Service Learning program is governed by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16- 120. 1.02

Name of Non-Profit/Community Organization:

Community Connections

Name of Director/Contact Personal: *

Jessica Nichols, Director of Programs for the state of Arkansas

Address of the Organization (City/State/Zip): *

1000 SWN Dr. ste 102 Conway, AR 72032

Email Address: *

jessica@communityconnectionsar.org

Phone Number: *

3167376405

Hours of Operation: *

Programs are after school & weekends

What is the mission of the non-profit/community organization? *

Community Connections provides quality FREE extra-curricular activities for kids/young adults with special needs and support for their families.

What service(s) does the non-profit/community organization provide? *

Extra-curricular activities (bowling, art, soccer, tennis, basketball, etc.) plus family support services (education workshops, respite care, parent support groups, etc.) all for FREE!

Describe the kinds of volunteer tasks students will perform.

At each program we have volunteers that become "buddies" to the participants. The volunteers are paired up with 1-2 participants and they help assist the participants in the activity of the program. We want all the participants to be successful within their own abilities.

The Act 648 implementation guide requires "precautions, policies and procedures" in place to ensure the safety of student volunteers. How will this non-profit/community organization ensure student safety? *

We have a 3 step volunteer program that each volunteer goes through before volunteering. Then before each program starts the directors make sure each volunteer knows who they will be working with and goes over the safety protocols. The participants are always with the group and no volunteers is ever left alone with a participant. Parents stay at the programs to help assist with their own child as well.

List any special considerations of the non-profit/community organization. *

Community Connections is providing FREE activities for the families we serve and we would not be able to have these programs without the volunteers willing to help assist the directors.

Do you have any questions?

N/a

For Fort Smith Public Schools Use Only

A completed application requires FSPS School Board approval with the signature of the School Board President and the date of the School Board meeting that the application was approved.

How may the activities described connect to curriculum learning goals. (AR Act 648 [implementation guide](#) on the ADE website contains a breakdown of a few subject areas and goals)

Extra-curricular activities can bust the self-esteem with the participants we serve. Community Connections programs are focused on meeting the kids where they are and helping them be successful in every environment.

School Board President Signature

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Date this Application Was Approved by the Board

MM DD YYYY

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This form was created inside of Fort Smith Public Schools.

Google Forms