

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

School District Information

- Name of the School District Initiating this application: **Cotter School District**
- Name of the district/school licensed faculty supervisor(s) with whom non-profit/community organizations will be working: **Kathleen Holder**

Community Partner Information

- Name of non-profit/ community organization: **North Arkansas Youth Center**
- Name of Director/ Contact Person: **Jennifer Burns, secretary/treasurer**
- Address: **412 Powell Street; P.O. Box 284, Cotter, AR 72626**
- Phone Number: **870-435-2850**
- Email Address: **jburns@cotterschools.net**
- Hours of operation: **M-F 3:00 to 6:00, various hours through appointment**
- What is the mission of the non-profit/community organization?

NAYC's mission is to provide assistance to the surrounding community in any way possible.

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

North Arkansas Youth Center provides a safe place for students to attend after school, which includes adult supervision and free wifi for homework needs. NAYC provides assistance to the local schools by providing an additional gym for sports or other recreational activities. NAYC is often used for additional space with the Cotter School System, as multiple sports can not always practice or compete on the two gyms on school grounds. NAYC also provides an updated outdoor facility where the local community members can go to exercise, play or relax. This includes three new basketball half courts, tennis court, two pickleball courts, a pavilion with tables, and handicap parking. Next month there will be new handicap accessible playground equipment added.

- 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.

Students will help clean and paint the existing facility. The building is leased from the city of Cotter and is registered on the Historical Registry list. This means there are many updates and maintenance issues that are always needing addressed. Students can help paint the walls and bleachers, help clean the bathrooms, sweep and mop the floors, and help run the concession stand. Students may also help supervise younger student activities and organize sports activities (coaching and refereeing). They can help with fundraising activities for the center.

These activities can be tied to social/emotional curriculum in giving back to others. They help contribute to feeling as being a part of the community in which they live. Many soft-skills can be addressed through these activities; leadership skills, cooperation, fulfilling commitments, responsibility, working with others, working in groups. Math and business skills are addressed in the concession stand.

- 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?

The facility maintains regular insurance and worker's compensation insurance, both of which require inspections. They yearly receive inspections from the fire marshall and always maintain an up to code facility. Adult supervision and multiple cameras housed in the main office/concession stand also help adults monitor student activities.

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

This is one of the few local non-profit organizations in our community that is open to everyone. They had an increase in the number of participants in after-school activities this year and are in desperate need of younger volunteers. Fund-raising keeps the cost very low that allows low-income families to use the facility (\$35 a year or \$1 daily use fees).

Local School Board approval of this site as a district partner



Signature of school board president

Oct 20 2022
Date of meeting at which site was approved

Email or mail completed application and this form to:

Jeffrey Davidson
Program Advisor for Social Studies
Office of Learning Services
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
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