

# Media Release



**bluffton**  
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

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## For More Information:

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## Mayor Lisa Sulka Recruits for 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Community Service Award Program

Mayor Lisa Sulka and the Town of Bluffton are recruiting students to participate in the Mayor's Youth Community Service Award Program for the coming school year. Mayor Sulka created and implemented the Town's Youth Community Service Award Program last year as a way 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 to be acknowledged for their service at the end of the school year.

"Part of the Bluffton culture is to contribute to our neighbors in time, talent or treasures," Mayor Lisa Sulka said. "This program is important because it gives high school students a venue to make a difference in other people's lives. Our local non-profits can also tap into the talents of these energetic students. While at the same time, the students have an opportunity to enhance their college and employment applications while experiencing the rewards of volunteerism."

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

At May's Town Council meeting this year, Mayor Sulka recognized three students who received the Mayor's Exceptional Service Award for registering more than 100 hours of community service and an additional 11 students received the Gold Award for performing more than 50 community service hours.

The program requirements are:

- Open to all rising high school sophomores and juniors attending public, private or home school in Bluffton.
- Volunteer hours must be earned between May 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> in consecutive calendar years.

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- 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 verified 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 30<sup>th</sup> to Kim Chapman at [kchapman@townofbluffton.com](mailto:kchapman@townofbluffton.com).
- Award-eligible students will be recognized at an official ceremony at Town Hall following April 30.

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

- The program's Facebook page is: Mayor's Bluffton Youth Community Service Award Program.
- Town of Bluffton website: <http://www.townofbluffton.sc.gov/mayor-s-bluffton-youth-community-service-award-program>.