

Teen Volunteer Association Rules of Membership

Everyone is welcome to apply to be a member (grades 6-12). The TVA is a group dedicated to planning events and supporting various ways to make the library a better place for teens and an integral part of the South Brunswick community. The TVA is also a space to make friends, learn how to organize, create and make ideas into realities. (Think of it as a kind of student council for the library).

In order to accomplish these goals, we need active and motivated members. Yes, this is a volunteer organization and there are volunteer hours associated with it. HOWEVER, it must be noted that we are looking for members who genuinely care about the group, not just people looking for hours. If you just want to earn a few hours, you should just check the blog, and jump into helping with random events.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE TVA HAS NO BEARING ON YOUR ABILITY TO VOLUNTEER AT THE LIBRARY.

Member benefits:

Members receive a TVA t-shirt, volunteer opportunities not published on the blog, sometimes first choice of opportunities before they are posted and the ability to create events and activities for their peers at the library and in the community at large. It is also the first step to becoming a member of our leadership organization, the EVA (Executive Volunteer Association).

How to join the TVA:

- In order to become a TVA member, you must **FIRST, indicate your interest on the Teen Volunteer Application.** Saleena will email you to invite you if you are determined to be a good candidate. A good candidate is determined by your essay on the application, as well as by peer recommendations from existing group members.
- **Attendees are not members until they have attended 3 meetings within a one year period.**
FYI: (We use the school year as our model, so the year counts from September-August). Therefore, meetings will not count for volunteer hours until the third meeting; at which time all the volunteer hours will be awarded retroactively for the meetings attended in order to fulfill the membership requirement. No hours will be awarded to anyone not completing the minimum of 3 meetings.

Annual Requirements to maintain and continue being a TVA member:

- To maintain membership, members must continue to **attend a minimum of 5 meetings per year.**
- **Members are required to volunteer at 2 “official” events per year.** TVA members receive a t-shirt as part of their membership. These shirts are our way of announcing who we are at community events. As TVA members, we should be conspicuous at “official” events, so that we can advertise who we are and what we do. Official Events include: book sales, National Night Out, Summer Fun Festival, December Open House and possibly teen led/created events & fund-raisers.

- Additionally, members are required to **attend and participate in a minimum of 10 teen events and/or classes per year**. As TVA members, we plan and create these events, and therefore, we feel it is not asking too much for members to support the events in order to continue to show support for library teen events.
*Please note: Participation in an event is NOT THE SAME as volunteering. As a general rule, if you are receiving volunteer hours for an event, it does not count towards the participation requirement. To ensure you receive credit, be sure and sign in at each event you attend (*teen events only)*
- **It is understood that failing to fulfill all requirements will result in loss of membership status or being put on probation.**
Probation means that members maintain membership but must show significant effort to fix the problems that occurred the previous year. If progress is not made within the first 4 months of the year, probation will be revoked and membership will be withdrawn. Former members do not lose their hours, but they will lose the rights associated with the group.
- **Members are expected to contribute towards the group and to assist with any ongoing projects and tasks given during meetings.** Non-participation is not acceptable and may be grounds for someone to be asked to leave the meeting and forfeit any volunteer hours they may have received.
- Finally, all members are required to bring a sense of fun, and to genuinely want to make our group and the library a better place.