

NYOS Families: Start Tracking Your Volunteer Hours for the 2026–2027 School Year!

At NYOS, family involvement is one of the many things that make our school community strong. As you prepare for the 2026–2027 school year, we invite all new and returning families to sign up for Track It Forward (TIF), our volunteer management platform, and begin tracking your volunteer hours.

When families accept a seat at NYOS, it is with the understanding that each family commits to a minimum of 20 volunteer hours per school year. That may sound like a lot, but it averages to only about 1 to 1½ hours per month!

There are many opportunities throughout the year to earn volunteer hours, including:

- Assisting in Kindergarten classrooms during the first few weeks of school
- Helping with Picture Day
- Serving as a Hall Monitor for Secondary students
- Supporting Field Day activities
- Volunteering at special events such as JagFest, Bingo Night, and the NYOS Golf Tournament
- Helping teachers, PTA, and staff with copies, projects, and other campus needs

We understand that not every family has the flexibility to volunteer during the school day. That's why NYOS also offers opportunities to earn volunteer credit through approved in-kind donations.

Examples of accepted in-kind donations include:

- Cases of bottled water for the front desk or special events
- Lysol wipes or snacks and other supplies for the nurse's office
- Items purchased from your child's teacher's Amazon Wish List
- Items purchased from the new NYOS District Wish List

For approved in-kind donations, families receive 1 volunteer hour of credit for every \$10 spent, with a receipt submitted as proof of purchase.

How to Receive Volunteer Credit for In-Kind Donations

If you purchase items for a teacher, classroom, department, or the school and would like to receive volunteer-hour credit, please follow this process:

Step 1: Log the donation in your Track It Forward (TIF) account.

In the Notes section, include:

- Name of the retailer where the purchase was made
- Total purchase amount
- Description of the item(s) donated

- Name of the teacher, department, or school program that received the donation

Step 2: Email your receipt to bmartinez@nyos.org for approval.

Once the donation has been verified, your account will be updated accordingly. I will review submissions and respond as soon as I am able to verify receipt and approve the volunteer-hour credit.

What is the difference between In-Kind Donations and Financial Donations?

Please note that in-kind donations and financial donations are not the same thing.

We greatly appreciate and depend on financial donations to support our students and school programs. However, when you make a financial donation, you will receive a tax receipt, not volunteer hours.

Likewise, if you receive volunteer-hour credit for an approved in-kind donation, you cannot also claim that donation for a tax deduction through NYOS.

In summary:

- Financial Donation = Tax Receipt
- Approved In-Kind Donation = Volunteer Hour Credit
- A donation cannot be used for both volunteer credit and a tax benefit.

Whether you volunteer your time, talent, or donate needed supplies, or do a combination of these, your support directly benefits our students, teachers, and school community.

Sign up for Track It Forward today and start logging your volunteer hours for the 2026–2027 school year! Together, we can make this another amazing year at NYOS.

Thank you,

Blanca Martinez

Community Outreach Specialist, NYOS