



## DESCRIPTION AND POLICIES

**Who we are:** VOICE is the teen advisory council of Midlothian public library, composed of teen advisors who help librarians plan programs, events and service projects that teens like you would enjoy. These teens also embrace a spirit of volunteerism and undertake service projects that benefit the library and the world

at large. We're looking for teens who are leaders and who want to make a difference in their community.

**When we meet:** VOICE usually meets from 6:00-6:45 PM the second Wednesday of every month. The VOICE year runs from June through May and includes ten meetings and one awards banquet (in lieu of the May meeting). Special service projects are scheduled throughout the year.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for membership, you must be currently in or entering grades 7-12 or between the ages of 12 and 18. Members who join before the age of 18 may continue to participate after age 18 if they choose.

**Attendance policy:** To be a member in good standing, you must:

- Attend at least 6 meetings a year, and
- Participate in at least 6 service hours, divided over at least 3 separate projects.

Excused absences count for ½ meeting's attendance. To have an absence excused, you must:

- Inform the sponsor or the council president of your absence in advance, and
- Check in with the sponsor or council president within one week after your absence to see what you missed.

Members in good standing are eligible to:

- Earn a full-year participation certificate and gift at the awards banquet, and
- Run for an officer position for the following school year.

Individuals who do not earn membership in good standing are considered associate members; they are still eligible to attend the awards banquet, but they will not receive a thank-you gift.

### **Community service participation policy:**

VOICE meetings and service projects may count towards community service hours toward awards or honor societies. VOICE meetings and service projects may not be used to fulfill court-ordered community service requirements. For the sake of recruitment of new VOICE members, non-VOICE members may participate in VOICE service projects, but they must do so in the spirit of volunteerism that characterizes VOICE. If the volunteer's behavior does not reflect this spirit of volunteerism, the sponsor reserves the right to not approve community service hours for that person, regardless of VOICE membership status.

Member Signature:	Date:
Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any other activities that may present schedule conflicts with VOICE meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month or VOICE service projects (usually on Saturdays during the school year):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following activities would you most enjoy being involved? (Check all that apply.)

- Planning, hosting, and decorating teen library programs
- Providing suggestions on teen books, magazines, audio-books and other library materials
- Reading to small children
- Volunteering to assist at children's programs
- Planning, organizing, and carrying out service projects to benefit charitable causes
- Participating in efforts to beautify the library

What skills, experience, or interests do you have that you might be able use in contribution to the library and the community? (e.g., art, music, dance, acting, public speaking, bilingual ability, cross-cultural knowledge, computer skills, photography, crafts, gardening, hobbies, athletic ability, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understood the VOICE Description and Policies document and agree to abide by its stipulations.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_