New for 2023 - 2024
This is a new recognition event for 2023-2024. Competitors should read these guidelines in their entirety to learn about the exciting financial scholarship opportunities available! These guidelines are written for ILC. States may modify events or have different event processes and deadlines. Be sure you check with your local/state advisors (or state websites) to determine how the events are implemented for all regional/area and state conferences.

Event Summary
For over 140 years the American Red Cross (ARC) has provided compassionate service to those in need. The American Red Cross’ mission of preventing and relieving suffering everyday provides opportunities for volunteer service in numerous ways. The vision of the organization includes assistance to those impacted by disaster, preparing communities to be ready for disasters, access to safe blood and blood products, providing support and comfort for our armed services, and training individuals to save lives.

The aim of this event is to inspire members to engage with the America Red Cross (ARC), to become lifelong advocates of the Red Cross, and to recognize both chapters and individual HOSA members for their participation in American Red Cross activities. Financial scholarship opportunities are available for selected projects as part of this event.

Sponsorship
This competitive event is sponsored by the American Red Cross.

General Rules
1. Competitors in this event must be active members of HOSA-Future Health Professionals in good standing.

2. **Eligible Divisions:** Secondary and Postsecondary/Collegiate are eligible to participate in this event.

3. Competitors must be familiar with and adhere to the “**General Rules and Regulations of the HOSA Competitive Events Program (GRR).**"

Who is Recognized
4. Recognition will be awarded based on the total cumulative hours a member/chapter engages with American Red Cross sponsored events / activities.
5. Recognition will be awarded in two ways:
   a. HOSA chapters as a whole
   b. Individual HOSA members

Eligible Projects

6. Any current existing volunteer opportunity within the American Red Cross will count toward recognition hours.

7. To find available volunteer opportunities, competitors will use the American Red Cross Volunteer Role Finder website.

8. The American Red Cross has highlighted a specific need for HOSA members to engage with the opportunities listed below. These are only suggestions, as any current existing opportunity that can be tracked through the American Red Cross Volunteer Connection is eligible for recognition:

   a. Sound the Alarm
   b. Holidays for Heroes
   c. Life-Saving Training
      i. Any ARC life-saving course can be completed for recognition credit (babysitting, CPR, lifeguarding, etc.)
   d. Coordinate a Blood Drive with the American Red Cross
   e. Diversifying the Blood Supply – Diversity Outreach Video
      i. HOSA members will work together in teams of 2-6 people to complete this project
      ii. Teams will review resources from ARC about Sickle Cell Disease, especially the role of “Drive Diversity Advocates” who support red blood cell collections from Black donors to provide units of blood needed for patients with sickle cell disease.
      iii. Additional Diversity outreach can be made for:
         a. Latino/Hispanic Community
         b. Youth (Alpha Generation/Generation Z)
         c. LGBTQIA+
         d. Asian and Pacific Islander
      iv. Teams will create a 90 second (minimum) - 3:00 minute (maximum) video (elevator speech) on why diversifying the blood supply is important. Teams will share this video on social media for school districts, schools, their HOSA chapter, etc. as appropriate to help spread the message.
      v. Teams will upload a copy of their elevator speech video HERE for a chance to be featured in ARC publications and for a chance to earn a financial scholarship (outlined below). Deadline is May 15, 2024.
      vi. Teams will present to any community organization or school group about why diversifying the blood supply is important. (Teams will document their presentation via photos).
      vii. Completion of this project is worth 25 volunteer hours per participating team member. I.e.: if 6 chapter members participate on one team, the project will be worth 150 total hours toward the chapter recognition.
      viii. Team members will track this special project, as well as all others, in the American Red Cross Volunteer Connection.
   f. To narrow the search for available volunteer opportunities that may be of interest to HOSA members, the American Red Cross has identified the following health-related positions (Please note some may have age restrictions):
i. Volunteer Medical Screener: Screen and examine blood donor candidates prior to them giving their blood donation. **Medical Screeners** collect and confirm donor demographics and determine procedure eligibility and conduct physical exam to include oral temperature, pulse, BP and hematocrit according to procedure.

ii. Blood Donor Ambassador: Be part of our work to help save millions of lives each year by volunteering as a **Blood Donor Ambassador**. Blood Donor Ambassadors welcome donors to blood drives and provide friendly support before and after donors give blood. This can include helping donors to register, answering questions and assistance at the refreshments table.

iii. Transportation Specialist: **Blood Transportation Specialists** serve as the critical link between blood donors and patients by delivering blood products to hospitals. If you have a valid state driver's license and at least 3 years of licensed driving experience you can choose regular routes, stand-by emergency deliveries or both.

iv. Kitting: **The Blood Services Kitting** volunteer provides support to Biomedical Supply and Kitting Departments by assembling totes for blood donation sites and mobile blood drives. They also ensure that supplies are well stocked to support blood drives.

**Tracking Hours**

9. Hours will be tracked through the American Red Cross Volunteer Connection. Any questions about the tracking process can be directed to Micah.Hollimon@redcross.org

10. Competitors will create an ARC Volunteer Connection account, and then use this account to search, participate in, and track volunteer activities.

11. Instructions for using the American Red Cross Volunteer Connection site can be found here.

12. Some activities may not be pre-populated in the Volunteer Connection (some life-saving training courses, the Diversity Outreach Video, etc.). For any volunteer activity completed by competitors not found in the database, competitors can manually add the activity and number of hours.

13. For every activity a competitor adds/tracks in the Volunteer Connection, the competitor will type their chapter name into the "school field". This is the ONLY way to tie the hours tracked to your HOSA chapter. In order for your chapter to get credit, the chapter name must be entered in the school field.

14. The American Red Cross will provide reports from the Volunteer Connection database to HOSA State Advisors as requested so states may award appropriate recognition. State Advisors will have access to the state lead from the ARC to request this info.

**Timeline**

15. For International Leadership Conference (ILC) recognition, this event may include activities from June 1, 2023 through May 15, 2024. Activities must be entered by competitors in the online American Red Cross Volunteer Connection database by midnight EST on May 15, 2024. The number of hours in the system is what will be used to identify individual and chapter recognition levels at the International Leadership Conference.

16. For State Chartered Association recognition for state conferences, this event may include activities from June 1, 2023 through the State Chartered Association published deadline. State Advisors will communicate State Chartered Association-level deadlines. Activities must be entered by competitors in the online American Red Cross Volunteer Connection database by midnight on the Chartered Association published deadline. The number of hours in the system is what will be used to identify individual and chapter recognition levels at the State Chartered Association Leadership Conference.
Recognition Levels

17. Individual HOSA Member Levels of recognition:
   • Bronze Level: 25 – 49.9 hours
   • Silver Level: 50 – 74.9 hours
   • Gold Level: 75+ hours

18. HOSA Chapter Levels of recognition:
   • Bronze Level: 150 – 199.9 hours
   • Silver Level: 200 – 249.9 hours
   • Gold Level: 250+ hours
   • All HOSA Chapters whose cumulative member total hours meet the above levels will be recognized.

19. Member and chapter names receiving recognition may be posted on the National HOSA website. Those members and chapters will be recognized with a certificate. The certificates will be distributed to the State Advisor during the designated registration time at the International Leadership Conference. Those members attending International Leadership Conference and earning recognition will walk across the stage during the International Recognition Session to receive a pin. Gold, silver and bronze medals are not awarded for this event at the international level.

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

20. Competitors may choose to participate in either or both of the optional scholarship opportunities below.

   **Option 1 – Team Diversity Outreach Video**

   21. All teams who choose to complete the “Diversifying the Blood Supply – Diversity Outreach Video” project as explained in item 8e above, and submit it by the May 15 deadline, are eligible for scholarship funds from the American Red Cross.

   22. The submitted videos will be reviewed by the American Red Cross and the top three (3) teams as selected by the American Red Cross will be awarded a financial scholarship. Both divisions will be reviewed together (Postsecondary/Collegiate and Secondary)
      a. 1st place = $1000
      b. 2nd place = $750
      c. 3rd place = $250

   **Option 2 – Chapter Summary Video**

   23. HOSA chapters who complete a cumulative of 150 hours (Bronze level Chapter Recognition) are also eligible to earn a financial scholarship for the entire chapter by participating in the Chapter Summary Video.

   24. HOSA chapters wishing to participate will create a brief slide deck presentation or video presentation summarizing their outreach and volunteer activities conducted with the American Red Cross.
      a. Video presentations will be a maximum of five (5) minutes long.
      b. Chapters have the freedom to be as creative as they wish in creating the video presentation for the American Red Cross – the only requirements are to summarize and explain what their chapter did throughout the year with the American Red Cross, as they worked towards the Bronze+ level recognition.
      c. The video submission must be uploaded HERE by May 15, 2024 as a file or as a publicly viewable link.
d. The submitted Chapter videos will be reviewed by the American Red Cross and the 1st place chapter in each category below will be awarded a financial scholarship. Both divisions will be reviewed together (Postsecondary/Collegiate and Secondary).

Large Chapter Category = $1000
  50+ chapter members
Medium Chapter Category = $1000
  26 – 49 chapter members
Small Chapter Category = $1000
  6-25 chapter members

Overlap with other Recognition Events:

25. Activities used for the Barbara James Service Award should NOT be used for American Red Cross Volunteer Recognition. Any activities and volunteerism done through and in conjunction with American Red Cross should be used in this event. Other community service activities outside of American Red Cross can be tracked as part of the Barbara James Service Award.

26. Blood Drives with American Red Cross (ARC) will count for this recognition event. Blood Drives with America’s Blood Center (ABC) partner blood centers must be submitted for the America’s Blood Center event. Any other blood drive conducted that is not with ARC or ABC should be counted as part of Barbara James Service Award.