Barbara James Service Award

Event Category: Recognition

Eligible Divisions: Middle School, Secondary, & Postsecondary / Collegiate	Recognizes participation in health-related community service activities	**Digital Upload:** Uses HOSA Activity Tracking System to track volunteer hours
Solo Event: Individual Recognition Event		

New for 2026-2027

Editorial changes have been made.

Event Summary

The Barbara James Service Awards enable members to contribute to their communities by completing worthy volunteer service hours related to health. The Barbara James Service Award is in memory of Barbara James, 1982-83 HOSA Inc. Board Chairman. Her leadership skills and contributions to HOSA exemplify the caring and compassion of HOSA members. This award aims to inspire members to be proactive future health professionals and recognize individual HOSA members who commit to volunteer service in health.

General Event Information

General Rules	Competitors must be familiar with and adhere to the General Rules and Regulations.
Tracking Hours	1. This event uses the HOSA Activity Tracking System (HATS) to document activities. The direct link to HATS is: https://apps.hosa.org/#member-activity/input. Members should input hours on a weekly or monthly basis. 2. Members must be officially affiliated through HOSA – Future Health Professionals before proceeding. Members will follow the Member Instructions for entering activity information and hours in the Member Activity Tracking System (HATS). 3. Chapter advisors will follow the Chapter Advisor Instructions and log-in to their chapter to approve or deny hours in the HOSA Activity Tracking System. It is up to the chapter advisor to determine the process they want to use to ensure the hours were volunteered, so they can confidently follow the instructions to "approve" the hours. 4. **The recipients of this award will be determined by the APPROVED data in the HOSA Activity Tracking System.** If an advisor does not log in to approve their members' activities, those activities will not be counted. Members are reminded to track hours as they are completed to allow time for advisors to approve them. Activities submitted during the last week of the published deadline may not be approved for recognition.
Timeline & Recognition Levels/Process	5. For international recognition, this event may include activities from June 1, 2026, through May 15, 2027. Activities must be entered and **APPROVED** by chapter advisors in the online HOSA Activity Tracking System by midnight on May 15, 2027. The number of approved hours in the system is what will be used to identify recognition levels at the International Leadership Conference. 6. For Chartered Association recognition, this event may include activities from June 1, 2026, through the Chartered Association published deadline. State Advisors will communicate Chartered Association-level deadlines. Activities must be entered and **APPROVED** by chapter advisors in the online HOSA Activity Tracking System by midnight on the Chartered Association published deadline. The number of approved hours in the system is

The expectation is that competitors read and are aware of all the content within these guidelines and associated links. Successful competitors will study all links for the detailed information.

	what will be used to identify recognition levels at the Chartered Association Leadership Conference. 7. All individual HOSA members who complete a minimum of one hundred (100) hours of service between June 1, 2026, and the Chartered Association conference registration deadline (for Chartered Association recognition) or as determined by the state advisor will be recognized. For International Recognition: HOSA members must complete at least one hundred (100) hours of service between June 1, 2026, and May 15, 2027. **Levels of Recognition** Bronze Level — 100-174.9 approved hours Silver Level — 175-249.9 approved hours Gold Level — 250+ approved hours 8. Those members attending the International Leadership Conference who submitted the above hours should register for the event. Those who register for the event will be listed first at the Recognition Reception. 9. Member names receiving recognition will be posted on the National HOSA website and will receive a certificate. Individuals not attending ILC can contact their Chartered Association to receive a digital certificate. Those members attending the International Leadership Conference and earning recognition will walk across the stage during the identified recognition session to receive a certificate and pin. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are not awarded for this event at the international level. Each state advisor determines recognition methods at the chartered association level.
Eligible Hours	10. **DOES THIS ACTIVITY COUNT? Not all volunteer hours provide community service. Only community service hours that are performed for the common good AND related to health should be approved for this event. Activities should be where members apply their time and skills to benefit the community. Advisors must take responsibility to ensure that only true community service hours are approved.** a. *For Example: You can volunteer to babysit your neighbor's children for free- that's volunteering , but it's not community service. On the other hand, if you volunteer at the local flu clinic helping to organize shots for underprivileged children, that is health-related community service and would work perfectly for this event.* 11. **Before approving activities, advisors need to determine whether they are related to health or health sciences. In addition, one of the following answers needs to be "yes."** a. Will this volunteer service opportunity help the HOSA member become a better health professional in the future? b. Does the activity make the HOSA member step outside their comfort zone? c. Does the activity provide a *service* to their community? d. Does this activity meet a need in their community? 12. **Examples of Approved Community Service:** a. Volunteering at a senior center, hospice, or hospital/health facility; b. HOSA volunteer activities that serve the community - in the community (flu clinic, community health fair, local food shelter or humane society); c. Fundraising for charity or community needs (ie, March of Dimes, American Cancer Society, local food shelter or humane society); d. Activities that serve the community at large and are health-related (flu clinic, community health fair) e. Rescue squad volunteer. Community service goes above and beyond what is commonly expected. 13. **Examples** of volunteer activities that are **NOT** approved for this award:

	a. General Service to a church (singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School, activities for the congregation, etc.); b. Activities that promote HOSA (parade float, fair booth, etc.); c. Activities as part of the HOSA Service Project (*see* HOSA Service Project *guidelines for this recognition*); d. Activities that involve shadowing or observations without providing service; e. Activities that earn HOSA members grades, credits, payment, or other rewards in exchange for service. Activities replacing time during an academic day in school do NOT count. f. Blood drives in partnership with America's Blood Centers or American Red Cross (*see these guidelines for more info*).
Overlap with other Recognition Events	14. During the membership year 2026-2027, all blood drives hosted in partnership with America's Blood Center and American Red Cross will be tracked using the process outlined in the America's Blood Centers and HOSA Blood Drives and American Red Cross Chapter Recognition event guidelines. For this event, a. We are asking chapters not to track these events through the Barbara James Service Award. Blood drive events submitted as a BJSA will not be approved by advisors during the 2026-2027 program year. b. Blood drives conducted outside of the United States or where an ABC blood center is not located or through the American Red Cross, CAN be tracked through the Barbara James Service Award.

Future Opportunities

The HOSA Scholarship program has funding available for HOSA members who have an interest in various health careers! The application process begins January 1, 2027, and can be found here: https://hosa.org/scholarships/.

Graduating from high school or completing your postsecondary/collegiate program does not mean your HOSA journey has to end. As a HOSA member, you are eligible to become a HOSA Lifetime Alumni Member- a free and valuable opportunity to remain connected, give back, and help to shape the future of the organization. Learn more and sign up at hosa.org/alumni.