



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

Social Environment Initiative 2026-2027 Youth Volunteer School District Grant

Grant Commitment Form

Online deadline: 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 24, 2026

(Grant forms must be submitted using the Foundation's online application process.)

Background: The Rapides Foundation's Social Environment Initiative seeks to address social capital by supporting leadership and nonprofit development, and increased community engagement. In Fall 2016, the My Civic Life program was launched.

My Civic Life is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Provide linkages among students, schools, and nonprofits for community service.
- Build leadership and 21st-century skills among junior high and/or high school students.
- Promote student achievement of Louisiana Department of Education Community Service Diploma Endorsement.
- Foster a lifelong commitment to being engaged in the community.

The program is for Junior High and High schools to implement a service club using the Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC) model to facilitate service-learning opportunities and increase soft skills.

To support the My Civic Life Program, The Rapides Foundation is accepting applications for its 2026-2027 Youth Volunteer School District Grant. This grant opportunity is designed to provide participating schools with sufficient funds to implement the service club component of the My Civic Life program.

Under this component, students are selected by school staff to join junior high and high school-based community service clubs, called Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC) Clubs, which perform service projects throughout the school year. Monthly club meetings are to be led by school staff using the Youth Volunteer Corps model. YVC is a nationally recognized community service nonprofit, and The Rapides Foundation is the only affiliate in Louisiana. The YVC model is designed to serve the needs of the community; to engage teams of youth in volunteer service projects that are challenging, rewarding and educational; to foster the development of 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, project planning, collaboration/teamwork and necessary soft skills; to promote a greater understanding of diversity in their community; and to inspire youth to a lifetime ethic of service. In 2025, YVC released a third-party evaluation measuring the impact of the program. Youth reported positive improvements in life and career skills, and results indicated that 20 hours of service yields a significant improvement in positive youth outcomes. The highest amount of positive change was seen in youth who reached at least 30 hours of service. The YVC annual summit provides additional opportunities for youth to build skills and volunteer. For 2026, the YVC Annual Summit will be held October 2-3 in New Orleans, LA. While summit participation is not required or funded by the grant, all participating schools are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. This is the first time the summit has been held in Louisiana.

Grant Events and Activities: Designated faculty members will serve as the **YVC School Coordinator** for the 2026-2027 school year. School Coordinators will be responsible for the following:

- Attend the mandatory one-day training.
- Identify and recruit 10 students to participate in the YVC Clubs.
- Coordinate, plan and facilitate monthly club meetings that follow the YVC model.

- Plan and implement at least two community service projects per semester.
- Track volunteer hours in the YVC database.
- Conduct evaluation surveys with youth and partner agencies.
- Ensure that all relevant paperwork is completed for YVC activities, including club applications and documentation for Louisiana Department of Education Community Service Diploma Endorsement.
- Provide regularly scheduled updates to The Rapides Foundation's Grant Monitor on the progress of club activities.

A **District Coordinator** will be identified to offer district level support for School Coordinators. The District Coordinator will be responsible for the following:

- Circulate and publicize grant information to all schools.
- Submit official progress reports to The Rapides Foundation.
- Distribute grant funds to participating schools.
- Communicate with the Foundation's Grant Monitor and Program Department staff for any needs related to the program.

Grant term: The grant term is from July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027.

How to Participate: District Coordinators must offer grant information to all junior high and high schools (7th-12th grades) in the school district. Schools wishing to participate must complete the School Participation Form and return it to the District Coordinator. The District Coordinator will compile information and submit the Grant Commitment Form, Signature Page, and all School Participation Forms using the Foundation's online application process. Necessary forms are located on the Foundation's website at www.rapidesfoundation.org under the "Grants" tab. Submission deadline is no later than 4:00 p.m. CT, Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

Funding Availability: Grant funds are based on the number of participating schools. Funds are given to the District and disbursed as needed to schools and School Coordinators.

- **Incentive pay, stipend*** up to \$1,000 for the **District Coordinator** to be accountable for overseeing district level administrative duties of the grant and ensuring activities are completed, district-wide, at the school level. Amount will be based on number of participating schools.
- **Incentive pay, stipend*** up to \$2,520 per school for the **School Coordinators** to participate in school-level activities of the grant such as after-school meetings, service projects, planning for club meetings and projects. This also includes travel reimbursements and stipends or substitute pay for participation in YVC training.
- **Supplies and Activities** up to \$400 per school for service project materials.
- **Convening and Facilitating** up to \$300 for club meetings, transportation, and snacks/meals for service projects. If purchasing food items, they must meet the criteria listed below unless it is for a large party or awards ceremony. Contact Grant Monitor for prior approval:
 - Beverages: water, sparkling water
 - Snacks: must meet Smart Snack guidelines
 - Meals: healthy balanced meals based on MyPlate guidelines
- **School Overhead costs** up to \$650 per school to cover costs of substitute teacher pay.

***Incentive Pay Stipend amounts listed include benefits. Benefits need to be deducted from the totals listed above.**

In addition, the Foundation will be responsible for ordering YVC branded supplies and providing Technical Assistants (Grant Monitors) to ensure the activities of the Youth Volunteer School District Grant are carried out according to the grant terms. These individuals are available to the District Coordinator to assist with ensuring all schools have the materials and supplies needed for all activities and offer technical assistance as needed and requested at the school and district-level.



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DISTRICT OVERVIEW

School District	
District Superintendent	
Mailing Address	
Phone	
Fax	
District Coordinator for Youth Volunteer School District Grant	
Email – District Coordinator	
Phone – District Coordinator	

Number of junior high schools participating in Youth Volunteer School District Grant included in this application: ____

Number of high schools participating in Youth Volunteer School District Grant included in this application: _____

How many of these schools are participating for the first time in 2026-2027? _____



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

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School Participation Form

(Please complete this form for all participating schools)

School:

District:

Faculty Member:

Email:

Telephone:

School Principal:

Principal Email:

Assigned Time for Club Meetings:

Estimated Number of Students Participating:

New to Grant Activities: _____Yes _____No

Authorizing Signatures

By signing this form, the applicant is certifying your junior high and/or high school is authorized by the school district to participate in the Youth Volunteer School District grant during the 2026-2027 school year. YVC school coordinators acknowledge and accept the responsibilities listed in the application packet attached.

Principal

Date

YVC Faculty/Staff Coordinator

Date