

# APPLICATION FOR THE GRATITUDE GENERATION SERVICE SQUAD 2025-2026

**Fully Completed Applications due May 18, 2025**

**Applicants will be notified by June 2nd, 2025**

**Age Requirement:** You must enter 6th-12th grade during the 2025-2026 school year.

## **Purpose of the Service Squad**

The purpose of the Service Squad is to provide teens who are committed to volunteerism/community service with regular and hands-on opportunities.

## **Requirements for all Accepted Service Squad Members**

### **Donation/Fundraising:**

- Give or get \$200 due on or before October 1st, 2025
- Further explanation on page 3 of this application

### **Attendance:**

- Attend 4 scheduled meetings on Sunday afternoons at g2HQ (1st meeting is mandatory, the others are highly encouraged)
- Give the Director of Programming 24hrs notice if you are unable to attend an event you registered to volunteer for or assist at

### **Participation:**

- Volunteer at least 4 hours per month for Gratitude Generation
- Arrive on time and stay for the entirety of all events that you register for
- Check email regularly for Gratitude Generation communication

### **Leadership Positions:**

- In order to apply for a leadership position, you must have completed at least one year of being on the Service Squad or Teen Board
- The time that is spent working on the roles and responsibilities of the leadership positions is expected to be in addition to the 4-hour service commitment
- Available positions, including roles and responsibilities, can be found on page 4 of this application

## **Application Process & Checklist for New and Returning Members**

- Check the meeting dates and add them to your calendar, as participation is highly encouraged. The introductory meeting on August 24th is mandatory so please make it a priority to attend.
- Have your parents/guardians/familial adults read and review this application as well.
- Please sign the second page and email a copy of it to [erin.kerpel@gratitudegeneration.org](mailto:erin.kerpel@gratitudegeneration.org)
- Complete the following form: <https://forms.gle/GGnnZvyphvFheY7K9>
- **New applicants only** - Please provide a letter of recommendation, this **cannot be from** a related person or Gratitude Generation Board member (examples that are appropriate: teacher, coach, youth group leader, etc). **Have them email your recommendation to:** [erin.kerpel@gratitudegeneration.org](mailto:erin.kerpel@gratitudegeneration.org) with subject line: Service Squad Application/Your Name

\*\*\*All steps must be completed on or before May 18th to be considered. Staff will review applications, and decisions will be announced by email on June 2, 2025.

**Important: Review Meeting Dates and Times**

**Parents:** At the initial meeting on August 24th, we will host a **parent session** from 4-5pm. More details to follow.

**Attendance** at the first Service Squad meeting is mandatory and attendance at the other three meetings is highly encouraged. The meetings will count toward the 4 service hours that month.

Meetings are at 815 Rosemary Terrace, Deerfield (g2HQ)

<b>Introductory Meeting: August 24th*</b> <b>*this meeting is mandatory</b>	<b>Teens: 3-5pm (2 hours)</b> <b>Parents: 4-5pm (1 hour)</b>
<b>Fall Meeting: November 2nd</b>	<b>Teens: 2:30-3:30 (1 hour)</b>
<b>Spring Meeting: March 1st</b>	<b>Teens: 2:30-3:30 (1 hour)</b>
<b>EOY Celebration: May 17th</b>	<b>Teens: 3-5pm (2 hours)</b>

Your signature below indicates you have read and understand that if you/your child is accepted, the Gratitude Generation Service Squad is a commitment of 4 volunteer hours per month, 4 meetings, and a \$200 Give or Get:

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Gratitude Generation (g2) often photographs, films, and interviews Service Squad & Teen Board members at events. This information is typically posted on the g2 website and featured on g2 social media outlets. Confidential information is not shared, but information and photos may be published to promote the Service Squad members and nonprofit.

If you **DO NOT** want your student to be interviewed, photographed, or filmed, complete and sign the following with the words, "DO NOT PHOTOGRAPH."

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **"Do not photograph"**

## What is a Give or Get?

A “give or get” policy is a requirement that all members of the organization's leadership either “give” or “get” a certain fundraising goal for the organization. For organizations with a “give or get” policy, each member can either donate the required amount or raise the desired amount through fundraising activities.

The accepted member of the Gratitude Generation Service Squad will give or get a minimum of \$200. We use the word “minimum” as some members may choose to do a fundraiser that goes above and beyond that amount.

The best part of giving is feeling good about donating to a great cause. When anyone donates to Gratitude Generation not only are they supporting the g2 mission, but also hundreds of other local nonprofits that receive the supplies that they need to further their mission.

\*\*Parents, if you would like to submit the money on behalf of your child, yes you will receive a tax receipt as Gratitude Generation is a registered 501(c)3

Ideas for possible ways to raise money this summer:

- Bake Sale (ask for donations, you'll raise more than selling at a specific price)
- Odd jobs for neighbors (again just ask for a donation not a specific number)
  - cutting the lawn
  - washing cars
  - washing windows
  - weeding the garden
- Bowl-a-thon / Walk-a-thon / Anything-a-thon (google ideas on the best way to run one of these)
- Sell something that you are good at making
- Tutor for a cause
- Babysitting

If you don't see an idea that speaks to you here, please google “fundraising ideas” and you will find pages and pages full of more options!

***If you are interested in participating in a group fundraiser, we will be supporting interested teens in organizing group bake sales the weekend of August 16th and 17th. You must be available that weekend in order to participate. Please email [erin.kerpel@gratitudegeneration.org](mailto:erin.kerpel@gratitudegeneration.org) if you are interested in participating, and we will add you to a group.***

Reminder: The give or get will be submitted to Executive Director, Nicki Sutherland on or before October 1st. [nicki.sutherland@gratitudegeneration.org](mailto:nicki.sutherland@gratitudegeneration.org)

## **Available leadership positions, including roles and responsibilities**

Requirements for all leadership positions:

1. Any teen who commits to having a leadership role **MUST** attend all of the scheduled Service Squad meetings.
2. Service Squad leaders will have a meeting to plan the 4 general Service Squad meetings. The timing will be based on the availability of the leaders approximately 2 weeks prior to each meeting. Please note that the first planning meeting for the leaders will take place mid-August.

### 1. President:

- Attend Service Squad leadership meetings, approximately 2 weeks prior to each Service Squad meeting (4 in total)
- Create the agenda for the Service Squad leadership meetings by contacting the other Service Squad leaders and the Director of Programming for content to be discussed
- Help lead the Service Squad leadership meetings (with the Director of Programming)
- Create the agenda for the Service Squad meetings
- Help lead the Service Squad meetings (with the Director of Programming and other members of the Service Squad leadership team)
- Coordinate with the Teen Board President, as needed (for first and last meeting)
- Lead a Service Squad “family” and reach out to them at least once/month (during the first week of the month) to try and coordinate dates to volunteer together

### 2. Vice President of Data:

- Attend Service Squad leadership meetings, approximately 2 weeks prior to each Service Squad meeting (4 in total)
- Distribute heart stickers at meetings
- Check in (via email) with Service Squad members who did not fulfill their volunteer hours in a given month
- Organize and distribute t-shirts and name tags at the first meeting (with VP of Membership)
- Help lead the Service Squad meetings and leadership meetings in the President’s absence
- Assist with creating an End-of-Year survey for Service Squad members and Service Squad parents
- Assist other positions, as needed
- Lead a Service Squad “family” and reach out to them at least once/month (during the first week of the month) to try and coordinate dates to volunteer together

### 3. Vice President of Membership:

- Attend Service Squad leadership meetings, approximately 2 weeks prior to each Service Squad meeting (4 in total)
- Create Service Squad “families”, with each family being led by a member of the Leadership Team
- Create and lead ice breaker activities for the Service Squad meetings
- Organize & distribute t-shirts and name tags at the first meeting (with VP of Data)

- Assist other positions, as needed
- Lead a Service Squad “family” and reach out to them at least once/month (during the first week of the month) to try and coordinate dates to volunteer together
- Create and execute an incentive for SS families that go to events together or for SS families when every family member has fulfilled their 4-hour monthly requirement

### 3. Secretary:

- Attend Service Squad leadership meetings, approximately 2 weeks prior to each Service Squad meeting (4 in total)
- Take notes at Service Squad leadership meetings and Service Squad meetings and send them out so those who missed the meeting are kept in the loop
- Text reminders to Service Squad members 2 weeks and 1 week prior to each meeting and as needed for other announcements
- Lead a Service Squad “family” and reach out to them at least once/month to try and coordinate dates to volunteer together
- Oversee all family text groups to ensure that Service Squad Leaders are reaching out to their families at the beginning of each month
- Write and send out email updates to Service Squad members and parents every Sunday

### 4. Treasurer:

- Attend Service Squad leadership meetings, approximately 2 weeks prior to each Service Squad meeting (4 in total)
- Assist with managing the Service Squad budget
- Assist with ideas for give or get/projects
- Lead a Service Squad “family” and reach out to them at least once/month to try and coordinate dates to volunteer together
- Contact those who did not submit their give/get by 10/1

### 5. Project Leader:

- Attend Service Squad leadership meetings, approximately 2 weeks prior to each Service Squad meeting (4 in total)
- Assist with planning the service projects that Service Squad does in conjunction with the Teen Board for the first and last meetings, as well as the projects for the 2 Service Squad only meetings
- Assist with planning service projects for Service Squad only volunteer opportunities 2-3 times/year
- Must be available in August to help plan the project for the first meeting
- Lead a Service Squad “family” and reach out to them at least once/month to try and coordinate dates to volunteer together

### 6. Social Chair:

- Attend Service Squad leadership meetings, approximately 2 weeks prior to each Service Squad meeting (4 in total)
- Assist with planning a social event after the first Service Squad meeting (walk to Sbox?)
- Assist with planning social activities for Service Squad-only volunteer opportunities (2-3 times/year)
- Lead a Service Squad “family” and reach out to them at least once/month to try and coordinate dates to volunteer together

