



# ***STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET***

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**SCHOOL:** Shawnee High School

**ACTIVITY:** Red Cross Blood Drive

**DATE(S):** November 18, February 26, May 18

**CATEGORY:** Community Service

**ADVISOR NAME:** Mr. Bozarth

**ADVISOR E-MAIL:** rbozarth@lrhsd.org

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## **PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROJECT:**

Students are given the opportunity to donate one (or two) pint(s) of blood to the Red Cross. The blood drive is held during school hours, so while students are missing class, it also motivates students to donate.

## **DESCRIBE THE PLANNING & EXECUTION OF THIS PROJECT:**

A few weeks in advance, Student Council members go out to homerooms asking for signups for the Blood Drive. They stress the fact that by donating one pint of blood, you can save three lives. They run out to these homerooms every day up until the actual day of the blood drive. Those who sign up on a piece of paper are then given donor cards, which they also must sign. (Sixteen-year-old sign ups must also fill out a packet, along with their parents). Once the card is signed, it is broken off into a top and a bottom half. The card serves as both a record for the Red Cross and as a pass for students to get out of class. We do NOT let them keep the card. Instead we give it to them on the day of the blood drive with a pre-designated time that they can come down to donate.

Students are also given two options. The first option is to sign up for Early Bird. Because we always get an enormous number of signups, we try to space out the donors by allowing them to come donate in the mornings, about fifteen minutes before homeroom starts. Some motivations we use to get kids to sign up to wake up early are that Early Bird guarantees students will get the t-shirt size they want, will get to donate at the same time as their friends (if their friends sign up too), and won't miss as much class (if students are worried about falling behind). The other option is to Double Donate. Students have the option to give two pints of red blood cells. This is usually only a small group of people, but it really helps.

As briefly mentioned, we purchase a few hundred blood drive t-shirts for those who donate. They are given to everyone, free of charge, and we usually try to make them funny and creative. There are always two colors of shirts with the same design. One color is for the donors, while the other color is for the people working the Student Council members working the Blood Drive. The members get out of class all day to help out and there are usually about 40 of them.

In May, we also run a platelet drive. Usually this drive only gets about 10 signups. It involves taking blood from the student, cycling it in a machine to take out the platelets, and returning the rest of the blood to the student with added saline. The Red Cross is usually eager to have platelet drives and sends out a bus to us for the drive. Students get to relax in the bus for a couple hours, while their blood is being collected.

At the blood drive, we have several sign-in tables for students. One table to check the time they come against their appointment, one table for an official record of what time they come down, and one table for them to register with the Red Cross. Additionally we have a sign-out table for when they leave. This is where the t-shirts are. Also, we usually have them sign some sort of colorful, shaped piece of paper after they donate. These are hung up in a display case for the school to see.

In addition, we have "runners" who are responsible for finding students in their classes who forget about their appointments. The runners remind the students of their scheduled times, so they don't miss their opportunities to donate entirely.

**DESCRIBE THE BENEFIT OF THIS PROJECT BENEFIT TO SCHOOL AND/OR COMMUNITY:**

Historically, our blood drives have been very successful, bringing in over 300 students and teachers at each drive (excluding the platelet drive). The blood that we collect helps save many people and is very beneficial to the school and community.

**EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS PROJECT, REFLECTING ON ANY POSSIBLE CHANGES YOU MIGHT CONSIDER:**

The one problem that comes up every year is over t-shirts. Students that are sent away from the Red Cross for iron deficiencies are always disappointed because they don't get a t-shirt. The reason for that is because we simply don't have enough t-shirts of each size to go around for all of the students who sign up to donate. One year, we tried to solve this problem by allowing students who were rejected to sign up for a raffle where we gave away whatever t-shirts we had left. Students seemed to like this idea, but it also caused students to sign up for the blood drive with no intention of donating, so they could be entered in the raffle.