



The Violet Richardson Award

**HONORING
YOUNG
WOMEN**
For Volunteer Action

Founder Region
Soroptimist International of the Americas



SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

It's What **You** Do That Counts!

Are you a young woman between the ages of 14 and 18 who volunteers in your community or school? Who sees challenges instead of obstacles? Hope instead of despair? If you are a young woman who believes in the power of volunteer action, then you may be eligible to win a Soroptimist Violet Richardson Award.

The **Violet Richardson Award** recognizes young women who make the community and world a better place through volunteer efforts such as: fighting drugs, crime and violence; cleaning up the environment; and working to end discrimination and poverty.

Volunteer actions that benefit women or girls are of particular interest.

Soroptimist is an organization whose members volunteer in their communities, often working on the same problems that you do. Although we realize that volunteering is its own reward, we also know it feels good to be recognized for your actions. And that's why we sponsor this award.



VOLUNTEER

The Soroptimist Violet Richardson Award Program

If you think you would make a good Violet Richardson Award candidate, please complete this application and tell us about your volunteer action. Send it to the local Soroptimist club listed on the application.

Good luck! And, even if you don't win a Violet Richardson Award, we applaud your efforts to make your community and the world a better place.

Soroptimist Violet Richardson Award Application

Instructions:

Deadline: December 15th

Completed applications and any supporting materials must be received by the above date, at the address listed in Step 3. Soroptimists, Soroptimist employees and the immediate families of both are ineligible, as are previous Violet Richardson Award winners.

Step 1: Determine if you are eligible

Eligible applicants are young women who:

- are currently between the ages of 14 and 18
- have demonstrated initiative in both identifying a problem and trying to solve it
- have had significant and noteworthy accomplishments as volunteers especially projects that benefit women and girls.

Step 2: Complete the application

Instructions for Using Writable PDF Documents

Some program materials are writable PDF files so members can type information right onto the document. If a document is a writable PDF, it is designated in its title. To type on a writable PDF:

- First save the writable PDF file onto your computer. (If you immediately begin filling out the writable PDF file without having saved it onto your computer, your information will not save.)
- Open the writable PDF file you just saved onto your computer.
- Using your mouse, click on the blank space designated for form answers.
- A cursor will appear.
- Type in the correct information.
- Once all parts of the form are personalized, select Save As from the File menu to save the document.

Step 3: Email your application

Send your application with any supporting materials to:

Soroptimist Club Name: _____

Club Contact Person: _____

Email Address: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

All inquiries regarding this application should be made to the club contact person listed above.

Soroptimist Violet Richardson Award Application

General Information

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

Date of Birth: _____ Email Address: _____

Address: _____
(Number and Street)

City: _____ Province/State: _____ Postal Code: _____

Country: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Name of the organization where you volunteer: _____

Phone number/website for volunteer organization: _____

Essay

See instructions on next page for content of your essay.

Additional Materials (Optional)

Please feel free to submit any supporting materials that you think we should see (for example, newspaper clippings, photographs, etc.). Additional materials are optional. Make sure that your name and phone number are on all additional materials.

Agreement

- I certify that all information provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I will notify the designated club to which I have submitted this application if there are any changes.
- I understand this award is taxable in the United States. Recipients in other countries should check their local tax laws.
- I certify that this is the only application I have made this year for a Soroptimist Violet Richardson Award from this or any other Soroptimist club.
- I understand that my application and supporting materials become the property of Founder Region, Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) upon submission, and that SIA shall have sole discretion in using these materials for the purpose of publicizing the Violet Richardson Award program.

By typing your name below you adhere to the above requirements.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____ Date: _____

By typing your name here, you give permission for your daughter to apply for the Violet Richardson Award.

On the next page, please write a **750-word essay** about your **volunteer work**. Your essay should address the following key areas:

1. **Impact on Women and Girls:**

Describe how your volunteer work benefits women and girls. Be specific about the individuals or groups impacted and the outcomes of your work.

2. **Leadership and Responsibilities:**

Share your role within the organization. What leadership responsibilities or duties do you have? If applicable, explain how you have taken initiative or gone beyond what was expected of you.

3. **Choosing the Organization:**

Explain how you selected the organization you are volunteering with. Did you join an existing group, or did you create your own to address a specific need?

4. **Community Need and Organizational Response:**

Identify the need you saw in your community. How does the organization you're involved with (or created) work to meet that need?

5. **Successes and Accomplishments:**

Include any accomplishments, milestones, or success stories related to your volunteer experience.

6. **Being a Role Model:**

Reflect on how you serve as a role model for other girls interested in volunteering or giving back to their communities.

Tip: Use clear examples and thoughtful reflection to demonstrate your impact, leadership, and commitment. Make sure your essay is well-organized and stays within the word count.

Essay

Please type your essay below.