

Saratoga Hospital SSOAR Program
Quick Fact Sheet

WHAT DOES SSOAR STAND FOR?

Students Sharing Opportunities and Responsibilities.

WHAT IS SSOAR?

SSOAR is a unique 48-hour summer program offered by the Saratoga Hospital Volunteer Services Department, offering area youth the opportunity to serve in a healthcare environment. SSOAR is not an internship or shadowing opportunity; it is a chance to offer compassionate customer service in a healthcare setting. Be ready for an upfront view of healthcare, see the ways in which our Hospital serves those in need, and get a better idea if a career in healthcare is in your future.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Rising high school juniors and seniors in the greater Saratoga Springs area are eligible. Participation is limited to 25 students with priority given to previous SSOAR students.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

To be considered, applicants must complete application requirements. Consideration will be based on essay content, recommendation letters, and previous volunteer activities. Those who submit completed applications by due date will receive electronic acknowledgement of receipt of materials. Following application review, some applicants will be invited to interview. Based upon interview, up to 25 applicants will be given health assessment documents which must be completed early May. Once the health assessment is completed, candidates will be sent a commitment letter. When signed letter of commitment is received by Volunteer Services, it is official! Together we then work on the assignment schedule, all in preparation for a great SSOAR experience which starts with a mandatory hospital Orientation on the last Friday in of June. When the required 48 hours of service are completed, participants will be asked to complete an evaluation and then receive a commendation letter acknowledging their service. A copy of this letter will be sent to your guidance counselor as well.

WHAT ARE THE DATES?

SSOAR starts with the application itself which comes out in February and is due April 3, 2020. Interviews will be set up as completed applications come in. All communication will be electronic, so be careful to check your email. Employee Health requirements must be completed by May 5, 2020. Attendance at the June 29, 2020 full day SSOAR Orientation is mandatory. The SSOAR Program runs two full months, allowing participants to serve at least 48 hours in their assigned department. The program wraps up August 31, 2020.





VOLUNTEER SERVICES

A SERVICE OF SARATOGA HOSPITAL

211 Church Street
Saratoga Springs, NY
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WHAT DO SSOAR PARTICIPANTS DO?

First time participants will usually serve at Treasures Consignment Boutique, Gift Shoppe, or Front Desk. Returning participants may serve in Emergency Department Reception Desk or Back End, Regional Therapy Center, or other clinical areas. Participants usually serve two 4 hour shifts/week for six weeks. SSOAR participants may stay on after the program has been completed and serve as regular volunteers.

DOES THIS COUNT AS COMMUNITY SERVICE?

Yes. SSOAR participants are volunteers at Saratoga Hospital and provide valuable community service to our patients and staff. The 48 hours of service (or more) that each SSOAR student serves are documented. A letter of commendation is sent to each student and their guidance counselor.

