

# Methods of Military Participation:

To make participation easier for units, the program provides three ways they can participate.

1. Units can adopt a specific school and complete volunteer activities within that school on a regular basis.
2. Units can review online wish lists from multiple schools for activities that fit into the mission time requirements.
3. Individual soldiers can review online for wish lists for volunteer activities.



## Soldier Recognition:

Unit hours are tracked by the school and reported quarterly. High performing units may be nominated for "Helping Hands" Awards. Each spring all participating soldiers are treated to a special luncheon.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

- Q - Are school wish list requests guaranteed?
- A - No, while soldiers would love to fulfill every request that is not always possible. Only requests confirmed by a unit POC will be fulfilled.
- Q - Does the school need to pay a fee to participate?
- A - No, this is a volunteer program.
- Q - Can Soldiers volunteer in their own child's school?
- A - Absolutely! Soldiers may volunteer on an individual basis at any school. Volunteer time during duty hours needs to be approved by supervisors.
- Q - How do schools submit a "wish list"?
- A - Schools can submit a request online at the School Liaison Officer website: [www.fortjacksonmwr.com/school\\_liaison](http://www.fortjacksonmwr.com/school_liaison).
- Q - Can I amend my wish list form?
- A - Yes, you can resubmit online anytime during the school year.
- Q - Do I need to have a certain percentage of military children at my school to participate in Adopt-A-School?
- A - No, any schools in the districts that serve military children are eligible to participate.
- Q - Can a class "adopt" soldiers and send letters, pictures, etc.?
- A - Sure, contact the unit POC to make arrangements. Be sure to remember this is not an opportunity to make critical political statements.
- Q - Who is Fort Jackson's point of contact for the Adopt-A - School Program?
- A - The School Liaison Officer is the point of contact.
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For more information  
Contact: Fort Jackson's School Liaison Officer  
803-751-6150  
keisha.mccoywilson@us.army.mil  
Website: [www.fortjacksonmwr.com/school\\_liaison](http://www.fortjacksonmwr.com/school_liaison)



# Fort Jackson Adopt-A-School Program



## Getting Boots on Ground in the Classroom

"For the sake of the child, for the sake of the world"

*"Just as each of us has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, we have the responsibility to give back to our country to our communities and to our children. It is nothing less than our civic duty. Reclaiming the next generation of youth is a call to action no one can afford to refuse."*

General Colin L. Powell, USA (RET)

## Adopt-A-School Program:

The mission of the Adopt-A-School program is to routinely contribute military resources and services to schools in order to nurture the intellectual, emotional, social, and physical growth of children in the greater installation area.

Adopt-A-School is an authorized program in accordance with Army Regulation (AR) 360-1, Community Relations.

Adopt-A-School activities are conducted to increase public awareness of the Army's mission and to foster good relations with the local communities. Adopt-A-School is an initiative of Partnerships in Education (PIE).



## How Schools Can Participate:

Schools will need to identify a point of contact [POC]. The school POC will submit lists of requested activities or assistance called "wish lists" via an online submission form found at the School Liaison Officer website. [fortjacksonmwr.com/school\\_liaison/](http://fortjacksonmwr.com/school_liaison/)

Unit POCs wishing to fulfill your request will contact you to make arrangements for volunteering. Some Units may choose to adopt a specific school for entire year. This unit and school will maintain contact throughout the school year and participate in multiple activities.

## Adopt-A-School Annual Reception:

Each year before school starts a reception is held where unit and school POCs meet for training, and networking.



## Wish Lists:

### Typical Wish List Requests:

1. Tutor, teach, coach, or mentor students.
2. Host student groups on post or bring military exhibits to schools.
3. Share expertise with school administrators or students at assemblies or in classes.
4. Work with students or faculty in creating a reading garden, a mural, or similar project.
5. Participate in school events such as Spring Carnival, Dr. Seuss Day, MLK Day, Career Day, Veterans' Day, concerts, basketball games, etc.
6. Be lunch buddies.
7. Assist with standardized testing.
8. Assist with inspections and training of JROTC or Civil Air Patrol.

### Soldiers May Not:

1. Serve as guards, patrols, or disciplinarians since this may violate the Posse Comitatus Act.
2. Loan equipment that the school could have contracted from local vendors.
3. Be used in demeaning or inappropriate capacities, such as ushers, lunch room, or parking lot attendants, janitors, baggage handlers, messengers, etc.
4. Provide readily available equipment or supplies such as ice, food, cups, etc.
5. Provide official vehicles to transport students to extracurricular events. However, units may provide official transportation for groups touring the installation.
6. Supplement the school's budget with a regular ready supply of free labor [However, nothing restricts soldiers from volunteering their personal time in whatever manner they choose.]