

# Why Does UTAH PTA Count Volunteer Hours?



1. **Credibility of Our Organization:** When a volunteer organization can document the number of hours its members are actually putting forth, it shows that the members are active in carrying out the mission and objects it was organized to do.
2. **Maintain Our Tax Exempt Status:** In order to maintain out tax exempt status, we must be able to prove that we are indeed a volunteer organization worthy of that status. Documenting the number of volunteer hours is one way of doing this.
3. **Grant Applications:** When school districts, faculty or PTA organizations are applying for grant money, it is to the writer's advantage to be able to show the degree of parent involvement. Documenting the number of volunteer hours spent at a specific school or in a specific area is most helpful.
4. **Legislation:** In our lobbying efforts at the legislature, it is most effective if UTAH PTA is able to educate legislators as to the degree of parent involvement and support within our organization by documenting the number of volunteer hours.
5. **School Administrators:** Superintendents and principals appreciate knowing how much actual volunteer time is spent by parents and community members in their various schools and districts.
6. **Business Partnerships:** As schools and businesses seek to become partners to enhance the education of children, it is most informative to be able to document actual hours of volunteer time spent by parents, students, and those participating from the business.
7. **Recognition:** We want to recognize those that spend their time and energy in behalf of PTA. Being able to document specific volunteer hours is meaningful individually, by school, by council, by region and even as a state. Showing appreciation for a job well done is always in order.

**\*\*\*In Kind Donations:** For the very same reasons listed above, it is valuable to list donations (items from class parties, art projects, school supplies, events and programs, etc). The cash amount of these items can support data on funding of items by parents as well as be used (in many cases) as match money for grants.

See the community involvement page on [www.utahpta.org](http://www.utahpta.org) for volunteer hour logs, in kind donation sample forms, and other volunteer recruitment, retainment and recognition ideas.

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