

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **2015 Youth Serve Montana Scholarships Available to High School Seniors**

*Students earn \$1,000 for college by giving 100 volunteer hours*

HELENA, MT- The Governor's Office of Community Service, Montana Campus Compact, and Student Assistance Foundation announced today that the 2015 *Youth Serve Montana Scholarships* are now available for up to 100 Montana high school seniors. It is the tenth year for this exciting scholarship opportunity aimed at students dedicated to volunteering.

The *Youth Serve Montana Scholarships* reward students who have volunteered over 100 hours in the last year and who want to further their education in state. This year, 100 high school seniors will receive \$1,000 toward continued education at one of Montana Campus Compact's public, tribal, private, or community colleges and universities.

"Community Service is an important factor for college admission officers when determining the students who will attend their institution," said Lt. Governor Angela McLean. "Students who are dedicated to improving their communities at home are likely to continue that commitment as they pursue a continued education elsewhere in Montana. I am always impressed to see the time and resources that many high school seniors devote to brightening the lives of those around them while also preparing for their future, and this scholarship provides an opportunity to do just that."

"These scholarships are an important way we recognize students for their commitment to bettering their communities," said Jane Karas, Ph.D., chair of Montana Campus Compact and president of Flathead Valley Community College. "By rewarding these students, we are positively reinforcing their choices and providing a lasting impact that will encourage them to be lifelong volunteers."

"Students throughout Montana deserve a reward for the thousands of hours they contribute annually to making Montana a better place," said Kelly Cresswell, Student Assistance Foundation vice president of Foundation Activities. "Student Assistance Foundation is honored to play a role in recognizing these students through the Youth Serve Montana Scholarships."

The *Youth Serve Montana Scholarship* application form, guidelines, and FAQs can be found online at [serve.mt.gov](http://serve.mt.gov). Completed applications, proof of volunteer hours, confirmation of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and enrollment in a Montana post-secondary institution must be submitted to the Governor's Office of Community Service by **April 15, 2015**.

The *Youth Serve Montana Scholarship* application form can now be accessed, filled out, and submitted through an online form powered by Student Assistance Foundation. The link to the online form is located on [serve.mt.gov/youth-servemontana](http://serve.mt.gov/youth-servemontana).

The Governor's Office of Community Service, Montana Campus Compact, and Student Assistance Foundation would like to encourage students seeking volunteer work to take advantage of the increase in volunteer opportunities during the holiday season. Students should contact local shelters, food banks, or volunteer organizations to see how they can best serve their community.

The 2015 *Youth Serve Montana Scholarships* have been made possible through support from the Governor's Office of Community Service, Montana Campus Compact, and Student Assistance Foundation.

The Governor's Office of Community Service expands and promotes national service and volunteerism in Montana and engages citizens in service and emergency preparedness. Visit [serve.mt.gov](http://serve.mt.gov).

Montana Campus Compact is Montana's largest higher-education network and works to improve community life by educating students for civic and social responsibility. Visit [www.mtcompact.org](http://www.mtcompact.org).

Student Assistance Foundation is a nonprofit Montana corporation that provides students with knowledge and tools to pursue and fund their postsecondary education. Funds generated by SAF are returned to Montanans in the form of education grants, scholarships and public benefit programs - to date totaling more than \$29.6 million. Visit [www.safmt.org](http://www.safmt.org) or [www.SmartAboutCollege.org](http://www.SmartAboutCollege.org).

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