

Irving Community OutReach (ICOR) project

“SERVING OUR COMMUNITY...SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL”

What is ICOR?

Irving Community OutReach (ICOR) is a unique Irving Community project where students raise funds to support their school and do service that builds community for themselves, friends, families, and neighbors. During four weeks in November:

- **Students sign up for community service projects** online or create service projects by helping at home, neighbors, relatives, etc.
- **Students also request donations** from family, friends, and neighbors.

What do the donations pay for?

ICOR is the Irving Parent Teacher Student Organization's (IPTSO) primary fundraising event for the school year. The dollars that students raise provide the funding for items like:

Supplemental **teacher classroom** materials, **Aardvark Store** items, **choir** sheet music, **media center** books, staff conference **dinners** and breakfasts, 7th grade **field trip**, 6th grade after-school **party**, 8th grade **honors** assembly, **club** scholarships, **band** registration fees, **outdoor playfield** improvements, **student council** support and much, much **more!** Past ICOR proceeds have provided more than \$10,000 for Irving's future **Outdoor Classroom!**

How do students know what to do?

First period teachers will hand out instructions and ICOR envelopes, and help educate students on how to sign up for projects and collect donations. Projects are listed on the bulletin board by the office and online at <https://tinyurl.com/ICOR2019>. A link is also available on Irving's website as well as IPTSO's social media pages.

How do parents support ICOR?

- **Help your kids volunteer** for service projects: Go online at <https://tinyurl.com/ICOR2019>, ask them to pick a project off the bulletin board near the school office, or help them create a project. They can help at home, or with other family, friends or neighbors' needs. Connect with school friends and work together on a project.
- Talk with kids about safe and appropriate ways to **ask for donations**. Help them make a list of fundraising ideas and who they will ask. Empty out the family change jar. Contact Grandma and Grandpa, aunts and uncles, and friends. Go with your kids to contact neighbors and nearby businesses that you frequent!

- **Help them keep track of service hours and donations** on their ICOR envelope. This should be turned back in to first period teachers **on Monday, December 2**. Teachers will be asking students to share what they've been doing. Encourage them to speak up and share what was fun and what worked to help others get involved. Have them ask their teacher if the class could do a project together.
- **Volunteer to supervise one project.** Most projects take about 1 to 2 hours and many are within walking distance from school. Every project signed up through school needs an adult leader. Go online at <https://tinyurl.com/ICOR2019> to sign up.
- **Help sponsor a project or recruit a sponsor.** Every service project has a sponsor to help defray the costs of ICOR and maximize the fundraising for the school. Projects can be sponsored by an individual, family, or business / community group. Sponsorships are \$100 per project. They can be signed up for at <https://tinyurl.com/ICOR2019> and then sent to school in your student's envelope. An online donation link will be provided during ICOR for those wishing to donate electronically.
- **The fundamental part of ICOR is *PARTICIPATION*.**
Each student and family brings talent, time, and treasure in their own way...but together we are Irving Community. Everyone can contribute their gifts.

To celebrate, first period classrooms choose a reward for returning at least 75% of their student packets. A returned envelope must contain at least one donation and/or have one service project logged. Examples of rewards are a popcorn party or class in the park; each class gets to be creative in their choice!

ICOR FAQ:

Q: What if a student loses their envelope?

A: Have them ask their first period teacher for a new envelope.

Q: How much is my student expected to raise? How many hours of service?

A: It will vary for every family. The last nine years, Irving students have raised \$8,000 to \$10,000 each year for school improvements, field trips, the Aardvark store, and more. A big part of ICOR, however, is asking students to stretch and grow in how they view themselves and their community. Do they feel that they have challenged themselves to contribute as part of the Irving team? Could they do another project? Collect another can for the food bank? Ask for another donation? It's less about the total amounts and much more about the total effort of students, families and sponsors. That's the heart of the Irving Community!

MORE QUESTIONS? Email Christie Weston at: christie.weston@nifa.org

Family support is critical to the success of ICOR...

...we cannot succeed without you!