

## **BENEFITS FOR SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS**

Signing up to become a school volunteer means signing in each time service is rendered. Those volunteers who are appointed by a School Board or its designee are considered agents of the School Board and serve as an integral part of the educational team. School volunteers are considered a valuable resource to the educational system.

### **TAX BENEFITS**

Many out-of-pocket expenses that a volunteer expends while rendering services without compensation are considered as contributions and are deductible from federal income tax. Persons who expect to itemize deductions are urged to maintain careful and complete records of expenditures and services rendered. Expenses which can be deducted include:

- transportation to and from home to place of service;
- mileage to and from home to place of service at the current rate;
- per diem allowance to cover reasonable travel expenses or difference between reimbursement and actual cost if receipts are retained while rendering donated services;
- cost of uniform if required;
- reasonable un-reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses directly connected with and solely attributable to gratuitous services performed related to volunteered services;
- dues, fees or assessments paid to qualified organizations.

(Federal Tax Law-IRS Publication #526)

### **FUTURE EMPLOYMENT**

In many instances, volunteered or unpaid experience is recognized as previous employment and experience. The State of Florida Employment Application and the Federal Employment Application for government positions states, "...unpaid and/or volunteer service MUST be included."

Information required includes the month and year of employment, name and address of employer, supervisor's name and title, job title, hours per week, and specific duties and responsibilities. Where salary is requested, "volunteer" should be inserted.

A resume should treat volunteered experience and skills the same as paid experience and also note that this date and information is from "volunteered services".