



DOS CRESCENT FOUNDATION SWAT CLUB HANDBOOK

MISSION STATEMENT

Provides programs and services for all youth and young adults in the City of St. Petersburg and surrounding counties.

Dear SWAT Member,

Welcome to the DOS Crescent Foundation SWAT Club of St. Petersburg, FL. We thank you for choosing to volunteer your talents and time within our programs. Volunteers within the DOS Crescent Foundation enrich the program and strengthen our relationships within our communities. By volunteering, you have the chance to learn new skills, make new friends, give back to your community, and have fun. It also opens the door for future career opportunities.

SAFETY for our children is our number one concern and your number one responsibility. You must ensure that your actions and daily interactions are always appropriate.

You are a **ROLE MODEL** for the youth in our programs and must always maintain a high standard of personal conduct and represent yourself well. Our children look up to you!

LEADERSHIP is the key to a successful recreation program. With your guidance and positive example, our children can experience fun activities and discover the value of learning through play. The enthusiasm and positive attitude of a leader is contagious!

Your contribution is important, and we hope that you will find your experience volunteering with us a rewarding one. Your effort and commitment are greatly appreciated by the DOS Crescent Foundation Inc. and the City of St. Petersburg. Thank you for caring so much about the community.

We hope that this handbook will help you learn more about us and how we operate. Our goal is to offer a safe, well organized and fun-filled SWAT for all citizens of St. Petersburg. Please help us obtain our goal!

Visit <https://www.pinellascountysigmas.com/doscrescentfoundationswatclub> for applications and more information.

Sincerely,

Antwann Jackson

Antwann Jackson, President
DOS Crescent Foundation Inc.



STUDENTS WORKING AGAINST TOBACCO

DOS Crescent Foundation Inc. SWAT Club Overview

SWAT is Florida's statewide youth organization working to mobilize, educate and equip Florida's youth to revolt against and de-glamorize Big Tobacco. SWAT is a united movement of empowered youth working towards a tobacco free future.

The purpose of the SWAT Program is to provide teenage youth with the opportunity to gain hands-on learning. We must work together to bring **AWARENESS** of the dangers of tobacco and tobacco related products in our community. SWAT Ambassadors are carefully recruited, trained, and placed in leadership positions.

General SWAT Ambassadors responsibilities include but are not limited to assist staff in setting up and breaking down activities/community events, assist staff in leading activities/community events, assist in keeping track of equipment, attending monthly meetings, web-based trainings and county wide events.

While there must be some latitude allowed for individuals to tailor the DOS Crescent Foundation SWAT Club Member to meet their needs, the following standards will be held common to all the individuals.

SWAT Club Member

- must be entering 6th grade or higher (under the age of 18).
- must agree to volunteer between 10 - 20 hours per month with community events, unless pre- approved through a DOS SWAT Club Advisor.
- must complete the designated application, be interviewed and attend the mandatory training sessions scheduled by Pinellas County SWAT Program
- must keep up volunteer hour log sheet and turn in quarterly for review
- receive volunteer hours or possible stipend depending on the number of hours the member volunteer

There are many benefits to volunteering! Teens who are in the SWAT Program can: develop increased leadership skills, work experience, and childcare knowledge; acquire documented on-the-job experiences in the field of recreation for future employment opportunities; achieve a better understanding of their community, be a role model to youth, make new friends and have fun.

- DOS SWAT Club Members may not use Volunteer Hours for Bright Futures **AND** count them towards the stipend. However, they can count the first 75 or 100 hours towards Bright Futures (depending on which level they are seeking) and then the rest of their hours can be put towards the stipend.
- They can break up their Bright Future hours as well so if they are only going to volunteer a total of say 250 hours, then they might want to only put 50 towards Bright Futures so they'd still get the stipend.
- It's the school system's rule that they are not compensated in any monetary way for Bright Future hours. They can't "double dip" and count hours for both.
- The school system requires that any hours be pre-approved prior to volunteering – they can't work and then turn in the form; it must be approved before starting. (Pre-Approved)