

**Item Title:** Proclamation Recognizing April 15-21, 2018 as Celebrating Volunteerism Week in Wake County

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners adopts a proclamation recognizing April 15-21 as Celebrating Volunteerism Week in Wake County.**

**Item Summary:**

By Presidential Proclamation, April 15-21, 2018 has been designated as National Volunteer Week. This special week was designated by executive order by President Richard Nixon in 1974, and every President to focus one week a year on inspiring and encouraging people to actively support local volunteer organizations and service groups, and celebrating those who give their time and effort to make a difference in their communities.

Wake County is aligning our Celebrating Volunteerism Week with this national initiative to place emphasis on the thousands of residents that volunteer to support County functions and operations each year. From volunteer firefighters who risk their lives to save others to elections officials helping others exercise the right to vote to the animal shelter volunteer who walks the dog awaiting its new home. This week focuses on encouraging local volunteerism and celebrating those who tirelessly share their time and talent with those in need. Through social media and other outreach channels, provide comprehensive information about volunteering in Wake County will shared to detail the various county programs, facilities and services that rely on community volunteers, and link prospective volunteers with service opportunities throughout the county.

We will also encourage Wake County employees to continue strengthening their communities through volunteer service. Effective January 1, 2018, the Board of Commissioners increased the amount of Community Involvement Leave available for County employees from one day to two days in support of volunteer service. Over the past two years, Wake County employees more utilized more than 12,000 hours of Community Involvement Leave, with amounts increasing by 1000 hours each year over the past three years. During Celebrating Volunteerism Week in Wake County, we will provide employees with updated information on how to get involved in their communities and promote the continued use of this important leave benefit.

Lastly, this week launches the 2018 #ONEWake Volunteer Recognition Awards program to celebrate the volunteers who helped make Wake County the best place to live, work, learn and play during 2017. The #ONEWake Awards will recognize the county's most exceptional community and employee volunteers, and highlight the various ways that ONE person can make a real difference in just ONE hour or ONE day. Nominations will be accepted through May 18, and the 2018 #ONEWake award winners will be announced at the Board of Commissioners meeting on August 6.

**Attachments:**

1. Celebrating Volunteerism Week in Wake County Proclamation
2. Presentation