

First some guidelines and thoughts:

1. I discussed the number of volunteer events with Mr. Escobedo; the correct number is 8 events per family, based on the number of events we must cover. Understand that even at this level we are counting on some people to work beyond 8 events.
2. NEISD Registration is a required first step for volunteering. Please take care of that early.
3. Our goal for this is not fundraising, it is to increase participation so that we don't have to raise mandatory fees.
4. Any event counts, not only concessions events. Please do try to work at least a few concessions events, as that is where our greatest need is, especially in the Spring when it seems like the band isn't doing anything any longer.
5. Please try to work the entire shift you've signed up for, whenever possible. If you can't put in at least 2.5 hours we may not apply that event.
6. While there are more events in October than at any other time, this isn't a race to 8. Events need to be covered throughout the year, so please plan on putting in some time through the entire school year. Yes, even into the Spring.
7. Events that take all day, like a competition, will count as two of the required events.

Next, questions:

1. Can two parents sign up for and work the same event, and receive credit for both? Yes. Parents and stepparents only, with a limit of two credits per family per event.
2. Can neighbors and friends help work off the required 8 events? No. We expect the primary workers to be parents. The intent here is to get volunteers who will hopefully participate beyond just the required events. Neighbors and friends won't usually be back. Also, there is a learning curve for many of our activities, and if we get a lot of one-time-only volunteers that won't help anywhere near as much as repeat helpers.
3. Can neighbors and friends help, even if it doesn't count towards my required 8 events? Yes, if they are NEISD-registered.
4. Once my 8 events are done, I'm done, right? Technically, yes. But please, no. It takes more than 8 events per family to cover everything we do.
5. I love to volunteer, and I can't seem to stop. Is that OK? Yes.
6. I have two kids in band, do I need to work 16 events? No. This is a family requirement, although we do hope that you'll continue to volunteer after the first 8 events.
7. I have 7 kids in band, do I need to work 56 events? No. You have 7 high school kids, you should nap during the game.
8. I have (some reason) why I can't volunteer, and \$200 is too much extra. What can I do? Please ask. If you have skills to contribute outside of our usual needs, we may be able to use your help there. If you have other circumstances, Mr. Escobedo has final say.

9. I paid the \$200 fee. Do I still have to volunteer? No. But please try it anyway. You might like it.

10. I paid the fee before I knew we could work it off. Can I have that money applied to the NY trip, or band fees for next year? Yes. Email Mr. Escobedo and he will apply the money where you want it to be applied. Finally, some closing thoughts:

If it seems like the emphasis is on concessions and fundraising dinners, that is correct. We need help for all our functions, but everything requires money, and this is how we bring in money. The Band Parents Association uses all money raised to directly support the band. In the last year we paid for music, choreography, props, clinicians fees, instrument repairs, and many other expenses that would otherwise come out of the mandatory fees. When Mr. Escobedo asks if we can pay an expense, we know that if we can't it will have to come out of fees.

Please consider the intent of this much more than the specifics of the rule. If we can spread participation out across more families, and across the entire year, we can keep mandatory fees low, and more kids will be able to participate in band going forward. Also recognize that this is our first year doing this, so we don't yet know all the special cases. If you have any questions, please ask. My email is president@volsband.org and my phone number is (210) 608-5423, I prefer text messages if possible.