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Kansas employers encouraged to join fourth annual Give Back Kansas Challenge

Mariah Monsour
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(KOAM) - Kansas employers are being invited to participate in the fourth annual Give Back Kansas Challenge, which encourages employees to volunteer in their communities. The challenge, spanning eight weeks from April 1 to May 31, 2024, aims to recognize and promote volunteerism across the state.

Employers interested in taking part in the challenge are required to register by March 22 at www.bit.ly/Givebackks. Once registered, they can encourage their employees to volunteer and track their hours through the duration of the challenge.

The Give Back Kansas Challenge not only recognizes those who already volunteer regularly but also encourages new volunteers to explore different opportunities. Participants are urged to try new activities that could help them develop new skills or find a renewed enthusiasm for their work and community.

"The Challenge is a fun and exciting way for participants to learn more about nonprofits in their communities and to help them out by giving of their time and abilities," said Nola Brown, executive director of Volunteer Kansas, which partners with the Kansas Volunteer Commission to promote the Challenge to Kansans each year.

There is no cost to participate, and the Challenge is open to any employer in Kansas (for-profit, nonprofit, education systems, and government). Employers register in advance to participate, and volunteer hours are reported through an online portal by the employers' self-designated point of contact.

Based on the number of entries received and company size, employers are divided into three categories (large, medium and small). Winners of the Challenge will be selected by determining the average number of volunteer hours per employer completed during the Challenge period. Employers achieving the highest average in each size category will have a \$1,000 donation made on their behalf by Volunteer Kansas to the nonprofit of their choice.

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Those employers will be invited to a check presentation and recognition ceremony.

"Research shows that employer-supported volunteering can result in improved employee engagement, organizational commitment, job satisfaction, and retention," said Dr. Jessica Dorsey, executive director of the Kansas Volunteer Commission. "We look forward to seeing the many positive ways participating organizations are affected during the Give Back Kansas Challenge."

Complete information and resources on how to participate and find volunteer opportunities are available at <http://bit.ly/Givebackks> or by contacting Dorsey at jdorsey@ksde.org or 785-296-3163.

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