



Hoya Mentor Info Packet- 2026



The holidays are a special time for everyone, especially children, and they are just around the corner. While many families in our community have everything they need, there are too many that are unable to afford gifts for their children. This program supports children in the Harrison High School feeder elementary schools.

Shop with a Hoya brings the spirit of giving to life by supporting underprivileged students in our community. Supported by Harrison students, this heartwarming initiative pairs Hoyas with local children to provide a joyful shopping experience and meaningful mentorship during the holidays. Through generous donations and volunteer efforts, participating students are able to take children shopping for holiday gifts for themselves and family members—ensuring they feel seen, supported, and celebrated during a time that can be especially difficult for families in need. More than just a shopping trip, Shop with a Hoya is about building connections, lifting spirits, and making sure every child knows they matter. It's a powerful reminder of what community can do when we come together with compassion and purpose.

This year, we are planning to take over 100 Little Hoyas shopping at Walmart on **December 12, 2026**. Shop with a Hoya can only be successful with your time and financial support. As a mentor, we ask you to help us with both. By completing the online application, you have committed your time. The application fee and donation of \$50 per mentor directly funds our Shop with a Hoya operation.

We hold our mentors to the highest standards and will diligently review the applications. The goal for Shop with a Hoya is to make a positive difference in the lives of the children we are supporting. Before applying, please check your personal calendar for any scheduling conflicts on **December 12th**—such as SAT/ACT testing, family commitments, or sports events—as this event requires your full commitment.

December 12th will be a very special day for you and our Little Hoyas. Plan to arrive by **7:30 AM**. Students will be paired together with their Little Hoyas, and you will be completely responsible for your Little Hoya until they are picked up. You are responsible for assisting in the clean-up efforts when the event has concluded. Plan to stay until **2:30 PM**. While the day runs from **7:30 AM to 2:30 PM** and may feel long, it will be more than worth it knowing you helped create a joyful holiday experience that your Little Hoya will always remember.

To apply, you must complete the following three tasks by Wednesday, October 10th:

- 1. Applications must be submitted online via Microsoft Forms**
- 2. \$30 Applications fee must be paid through MyPaymentsPlus fee**
- 3. Join “2026 Shop with a Hoya” Band App**

*Please note that each student applying must raise an additional \$50 (aside from the initial \$30 application fee) in order to participate. **Your raised donation of \$50 must be submitted through MyPaymentsPlus by November 17th.**

This is an exciting and rewarding opportunity—but also one that carries real responsibility. Thank you for your enthusiasm and willingness to be part of this incredible program. We look forward to seeing you on **December 12th!**

Reminders & Important Dates

Saturday, October 10, 2026	Complete 3 tasks ▪ Shop with a Hoya Application Due (<i>online Microsoft forms</i>) ▪ \$30 application fee (<i>MyPaymentsPlus</i>) ▪ Join “2026 Shop with a Hoya” Band App
Tuesday, November 17, 2026	▪ \$50 minimum donation fee <u>per applicant</u> (<i>MyPaymentsPlus</i>) ***Donations online can be either \$50, \$75, or \$100.
Friday, December 11, 2026	▪ REQUIRED: Set-up and decorate for Shop with a Hoya right after school
Saturday, December 12, 2026	▪ Shop with a Hoya! ▪ Arrive at 7:30 and get ready for an amazing day!

ALL applications must be submitted online & donations paid through “MyPaymentsPlus”

Steps for becoming a Shop with a Hoya Mentor

**A space has been provided next to each step so you can keep track of your completion of all steps in the process*

STEP 1: Turn in the application and application fee no later than Wednesday, October 10th, 2026.

- **Applications** are to be **submitted online** via the Shop with a Hoya page on the HHS website
- **\$30 non-refundable application fee** must be paid online through My Payments Plus (under "special events"); it's linked to the online application.
- **Join the "2026 Shop with a Hoya" Band App** to receive reminders, messages, etc.
- **Few Reminders:**



- Applications will not be accepted without the \$30 non-refundable application fee, which covers the cost of your shirt as well as helps pay for breakfast, lunch, and transportation costs for the event.
- At the end of the online application, you'll be asked to provide your signature on the final question. By signing, **you are affirming your full commitment to participate in Shop with a Hoya**. Please note that this includes attending **ONE training session**, raising the **\$50 minimum** donation by **November 17th** (you can always raise more), sending family and friends your request for a donation letter (donation letters are at the end of the SWAH info link), and bringing your best energy on **December 12th**.
- Shop with a Hoya shirts will be distributed at the Mentor Training Sessions.

STEP 2: Send out donation letters (attached at the end of this sheet). I may be helpful to print out at least 2 donation letters and mail/email these letters to at least two people you think would be able to donate money to SWAH. ***Remember you will be seeing lots of family over the Thanksgiving holiday, so be sure to make copies of the letter and take it with you to your events. The more you raise, the more we are able to provide for our Little Hoya Shoppers and their experience.

STEP 3: Turn in your \$50 REQUIRED SWAH donation by November 17th. Your \$50 (minimum) fundraiser should be paid online through MyPaymentsPlus.

- **\$50** is the minimum donation amount but additional donations are greatly appreciated to help give each child the best experience possible.
- If you need to pay via check, please see Mrs. Kappel in the Learning Commons.

STEP 4: Attend a REQUIRED Shop with a Hoya training session. This year we are holding all training sessions on the following dates and times:

- **Monday, December 7th @ 3:35 PM:** in the LEARNING COMMONS
- **Tuesday, December 8th @ 7:45 AM:** in the PAC
- **Wednesday, December 9th @ 7:45 AM:** in the PAC
- **Thursday, December 10th @ 3:35 PM:** in the LEARNING COMMONS

***Sessions will begin promptly at 7:45 am and 3:35pm (you will be asked to attend another session if you come in too late). **YOU MUST ATTEND ONE TRAINING SESSION TO PARTICIPATE EVEN IF YOU'VE PARTICIPATED IN SWAH BEFORE!!!**

STEP 5: Stay after school on Friday, December 11th to help make our space festive! We like for this event to be exciting for our Little Hoyas. In order to do this, we transform the cafe into Santa's Workshop. If you cannot stay after to help decorate, you **MUST** notify Ms. Kappel via e-mail by Wednesday, December 9th. Any other absences from decorations after school on Friday will register as a non-commitment on your part and you will be one of the last to receive their Little Hoya assignments on Saturday if we have enough to go around.

Questions, please see Ms. Moody, Ms. Johnson, or Ms. Kappel or via email at Gillian.Moody@cobbk12.org, Kimberly.Johnson@cobbk12.org, or Shaleen.Kappel@cobbk12.org

***All donations and fees to Shop with a Hoya are non-refundable**

HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL



FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

Dear _____,

I'm proud to be part of a program called **Shop with a Hoya**—a special holiday event that gives local elementary students, many from underprivileged homes, a joyful shopping experience during the Christmas season.

This year, I've committed to being a mentor in the program, which means I'll be paired with a young child for a day of holiday shopping, bonding, and fun. Together, we'll pick a few special gifts for them and their family members.

But to make this happen, **we need your help**. Whether it's \$10, \$25, or more, every donation helps bring warmth, joy, and a sense of belonging to a child who truly deserves it: 100% of what you give goes directly to making this day unforgettable for our Little Hoyas.

Being part of this program means so much to me. I know I'll never forget the experience—and I want to make sure my "Little Hoya" won't either. Thank you so much for supporting this cause and for helping spread kindness this holiday season.

If you are able to contribute, you can give the money to me, or mail your donation directly to Harrison High School. **Checks can be made out to Harrison High School with Shop with a Hoya in the memo line:**

Harrison High School
c/o Gillian Moody
4500 Due West Road
Kennesaw, GA 30152

All donations are tax deductible, please contact Darlene.Pruitt.Corbin@cobbk12.org for receipt.

Thank you so much for your consideration this year. I can't wait to share my experience!

Sincerely yours,
