

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.  
VOLUNTEER.



## BACKGROUND

America has a long and proud tradition of volunteer service. Now more than ever, volunteers are renewing their commitment to helping others and making new connections that bring us closer together.

In his 2002 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush issued a challenge to all Americans to make time to help their neighbors, communities, and Nation through service. He called on each person to dedicate at least 4,000 hours – or two years – to service over the course of their lives. He created the USA Freedom Corps to help all Americans answer his call to service and help foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility.

In 2003, President Bush created the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation to find ways to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making in our Nation. Chaired by two-time Superbowl Champion Darrell Green, with former U.S. Senators Robert Dole and John Glenn as honorary co-chairs, the Council comprises leaders in government, media, entertainment, business, nonprofit, and volunteer service organizations, as well as community volunteers.

The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation created the President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. This type of recognition is also designed to set a standard for every American – to encourage a sustained commitment to helping others and a lifelong habit of service.



## WHAT DO RECIPIENTS RECEIVE?

Award recipients receive:

- An official President's Volunteer Service Award pin
- A personalized certificate of achievement
- A note of congratulations from the President of the United States
- A letter from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation



Recipients are eligible to receive the award once every 12 months.

[www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov](http://www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov)

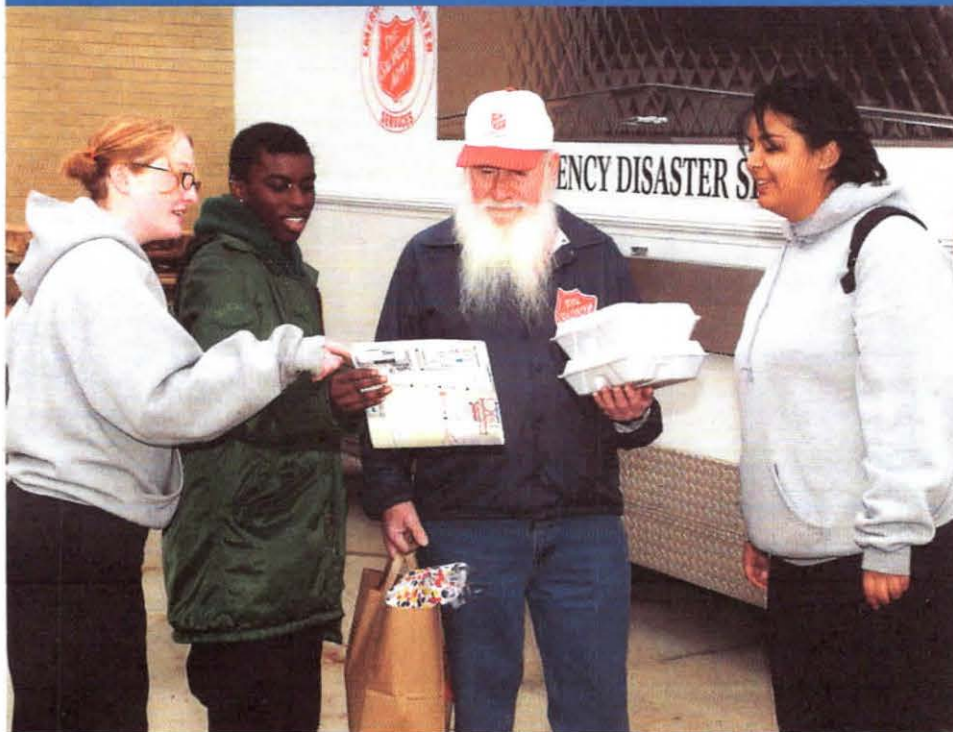


## THE PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD: HONORING AMERICANS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY VOLUNTEERING

Every day, millions of Americans volunteer, using their time, talents, and compassion to make a difference in the lives of others. By mentoring a child, caring for an elderly neighbor, teaching someone to read, or bringing food and clothes to those who need them, Americans are helping to foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility for generations to come. It is through these acts of kindness and decency that we are able to demonstrate the true character and compassion of our country.

Recognizing and honoring volunteers sets a standard for service to others. It encourages a sustained commitment to civic participation and inspires others to make volunteering a central part of their lives. The President's Volunteer Service Award is a Presidential recognition program for Americans of all ages, who contribute a significant amount of time to volunteer service. The program recognizes individuals, families, and groups that have achieved a certain standard – measured by the number of hours served over a 12-month period.

Given their ongoing service activity, many individuals, families, and groups may have already met the requirements to earn the President's Volunteer Service Award.



## HOW DO ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATE?

Although the President's Volunteer Service Award is a national recognition program, awards are delivered through a variety of organizations whether local, state, or national. To participate, an organization must register to be a "certifying organization."

Certifying organizations agree to:

- Verify the hours of volunteer service
- Nominate potential awardees
- Order and distribute the awards

The certifying organization also assumes the nominal cost of the award itself. The organization can either handle this cost directly or work with local sponsors to underwrite the cost.



## WHO CAN BE A CERTIFYING ORGANIZATION?

Certifying organizations must be legally established and operated in the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or a U.S. territory. Examples include:

- Nonprofit and community-based organizations
- Civic, fraternal, and service groups
- Faith-based institutions
- Businesses
- Schools and higher education institutions
- National service programs
- Membership organizations
- Federal, state, and local government agencies

## HOW DO ORGANIZATIONS BENEFIT?

The award program will be promoted at the national level for nonprofits, businesses, schools and higher education institutions, faith-based and community organizations, and other certifying organizations. Specifically, participating in this program can help an organization:

- Raise visibility
- Highlight its dedication to service in the community
- Communicate its mission and accomplishments
- Participate in a national volunteer recognition movement

The President's Volunteer Service Award provides important benefits to volunteers and organizations. Recognizing volunteers with the service awards can help organizations:

- Reward volunteers for their dedication and commitment
- Build morale and teamwork
- Reinforce the value of volunteering and establish common goals
- Motivate volunteers and improve volunteer performance
- Create role models who can inspire others
- Attract and retain volunteers

For more information about how to get involved and to access the forms for your organization to distribute the President's Volunteer Service Award, visit [www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov](http://www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov) or call 1-866-545-5307.

## PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON SERVICE AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION

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### PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACTION PRIORITIES

Volunteers are encouraged to participate in service that addresses specific areas of need.

The priority areas for this year are:

- Youth achievement
- Parks and open space
- Healthy communities (including physical and economic health)
- Public safety and emergency response

In order to mobilize individuals to meet these pressing community needs, the USA Freedom Corps offers support, research, and other information regarding particular areas of need in America's communities that can be uniquely addressed through volunteer time and talents.

### AWARD ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Any individual, family, or group can receive Presidential recognition for annual and lifelong commitment to volunteer service at home or abroad. The following are the annual eligibility requirements.

#### PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

##### AGES 5 TO 14

Bronze Award . . . .50-74 hours  
Silver Award . . . .75-99 hours  
Gold Award . . . . .100 or more hours

##### AGES 15 TO 25

Bronze Award . . . .100-174 hours  
Silver Award . . . . .175-249 hours  
Gold Award . . . . .250 or more hours

##### AGES 26 & UP

Bronze Award . . . . .100-249 hours  
Silver Award . . . . .250-499 hours  
Gold Award . . . . .500 or more hours

##### FAMILIES & GROUPS (two or more people)\*

Bronze Award . . . . .200-499 hours  
Silver Award . . . . .500-999 hours  
Gold Award . . . . .1,000 or more hours

#### PRESIDENT'S CALL TO SERVICE AWARD

##### ALL AGES

4,000 hours or more of volunteer service (over a lifetime)

\* In families and groups, each member contributing to the total number of hours must have served 25 hours or more.



The President's Volunteer Service Award is an initiative of the  
President's Council on Service and Civic Participation  
in conjunction with

Corporation for  
**NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE** ★★ ★

**USA**   
**Freedom Corps**  
Make a Difference. Volunteer.

administered by  
Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network.

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