

A Way To Reward Volunteers Making A Difference In Your Community

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In conversations with law enforcement agencies and alumni associations around this great state, I was very surprised by the number of officers and civilians that did not know about a great program available to help attract and retain volunteers that are making a difference in their communities.

“Volunteering isn’t just nice, it’s necessary for tackling our toughest problems,” said David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation of National and Community Service, the federal agency which oversees Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, VISTA, and NCCC. “Cities with high volunteer rates are cities that have lower crime, higher employment, better education, and a better quality of life. City leaders should use this information as a roadmap to increasing volunteering and citizen problem-solving in their cities.”

The Corporation reported earlier this year that the 61.2 million adults who volunteered in the United States in 2006 represent 26.7 percent of the population. Using Independent Sector’s estimate of the dollar value of a volunteer’s time (see page 7), the 8.1 billion hours Americans volunteered last year equates to a value of \$152 billion dollars, a powerful economic impact to the entire nation.

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

Every day, millions of Americans volunteer, using their own time, talents, and compassion to make a difference in their communities. 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.

of hours served over a 12-month period or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime.

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 as families, as neigh-

bors, as communities, and as a nation.

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.

About The Award

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.



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. The Council brings together leaders from the worlds of business, entertainment, sports, education, government, non-profits, and the media. 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.

To date, the President's Council has partnered with more than 14,000 Certifying Organizations to bestow more than 400,000 awards to the Nation's deserving volunteers.

How Organizations Participate

Although the President's Volunteer Service Award is a national recognition program, awards are delivered through a variety of organizations — including law enforcement agencies and alumni associations. To participate, an organization must register to be a "certifying organization." Certifying organizations agree to verify the hours of volunteer service, nominate potential awardees, and order and distribute the awards. The certifying organization also assumes the very nominal cost of the award itself (currently \$2.00 each). The organization can either handle the 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. Examples include:

- Non-profit and community based organizations
- Civic, fraternal, and service groups
- Membership organizations
- Federal, state, and local government agencies

How Your Agency Or Association Benefits

The award program will be promoted at the national level. Specifically, par-

ticipating 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

In addition, 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
- Motivate volunteers and improve volunteer performance
- Create role models who can inspire others
- Attract and retain volunteers

For additional information on this program, visit

www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov



Presidential Volunteer Service Award Criteria

Any individual, family, or group can receive Presidential recognition for volunteer hours earned over a 12-month period or over the course of a lifetime at home or abroad. The following are the eligibility requirements for each age group:



BRONZE PIN LEVEL

- Kids: 50 to 74 hours
- Young Adults: 100 to 174 hours
- Adults: 100 to 249 hours
- Family & Groups: 200 to 499 hours

SILVER PIN LEVEL

- Kids: 75 to 99 hours
- Young Adults: 175 to 249 hours
- Adults: 250 to 499 hours
- Family & Groups: 500 to 999 hours



GOLD PIN LEVEL

- Kids: 100 hours or more
- Young Adults: 250 hours or more
- Adults: 500 hours or more
- Family & Groups: 1000 hours or more

PRESIDENT'S CALL TO SERVICE AWARD PIN

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

