

SERVICE



POINTS
OF LIGHT

WHAT IS IT AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

What do school boards, the military and transportation services all have in common? They are all forms of public service. Public service seeks to extend opportunities, protect the vulnerable and improve quality of life. They focus on the benefit to society as a whole and not a specific group of individuals.

Public service provides an opportunity for the people who are serving to become more deeply involved in creating resilient communities. Service can be a paid or volunteer role. These roles also allow the opportunity to actively contribute to

the many systems and institutions that benefit the community.

Participation in public service represents a demonstration of passion and commitment to your community and country. These institutions play a crucial role in having functional democracies – the emergency services that protect us, the laws that govern us and more. Taking an active part in public service can also offer a unique opportunity to influence public policies and advocate for your beliefs, among many other things.

THE ROLES PEOPLE CAN PLAY IN PUBLIC SERVICE



FIVE THINGS TO CONSIDER ABOUT SERVICE



1. There's a place for everyone. Your level of engagement with public service can be large and small. And you don't have to pursue a new career to be involved. Serving on a jury or participating in a local meeting about an issue impacting the community are meaningful ways to serve that don't require a long-term commitment.



2. Develop new skills. When people become involved in public service, such as when they join the military or a national service program like AmeriCorps or Peace Corps, they almost always are trained to develop new skills to help them achieve their goals. Many young people explore these opportunities in order to gain these skills and explore new career paths.



3. Recognition matters. Participation in public service isn't always easy. Often times it can even be dangerous. Showing

recognition to those who support and protect our communities is a great way to demonstrate your own commitment to service.









4. Learn from others. Those who have participated in public service carry with them stories about their experiences and the people and communities they worked with. Take the time to listen and learn from those in your life who have served and pass what you've learned on to others.



5. It's okay to disagree. Our elected officials are all in public service roles. This is something that's easy to dismiss when we're focusing on whether or not they support the issues and policies we care about in the same way we care about them. But even when we disagree, we can still support and steward public servants to work for the benefit of the society.



TAKE A DEEPER DIVE AND LEARN MORE

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|  <p>AmeriCorps</p> <p>Explore the impact of national service programs like AmeriCorps</p> |  <p>Eight Skills Military Members Bring to the Workplace</p> |  <p>The pandemic reminds us of the importance of public service</p> |  <p>PODCAST: Why Public Service?</p> |  <p>WATCH: A Towering Task Documentary</p> |  <p>BOOK: What It Means to Serve: From Airborne Ranger to Peace Corps Volunteer by Robert Donayre</p> |
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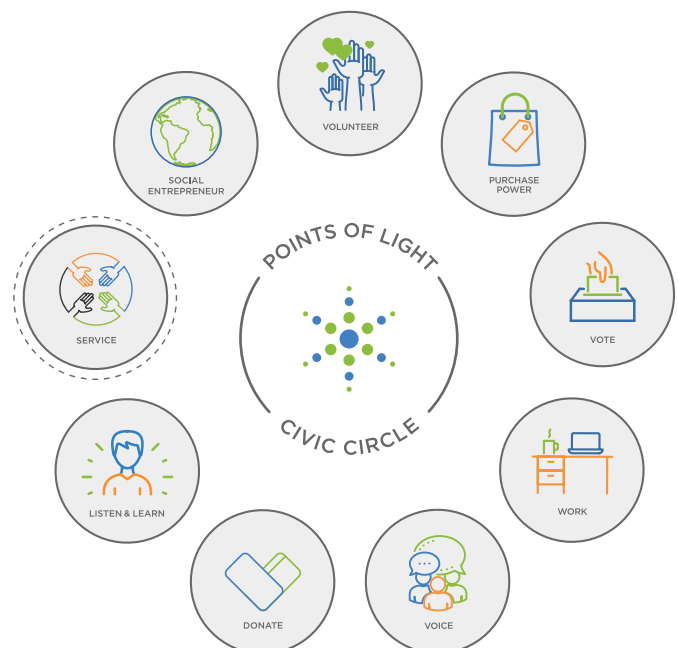
THINK ABOUT IT...



- If you have personal experience with public service, how do you share your story with others?
- Have there been times you were participating in public service and didn't even realize it?
- For those unsure of their own career path, particularly with young people, what role can public service play in fostering their professional growth?
- How would you influence others to support those in public service locally?

WHAT NOW? WHAT NEXT?

- Stay informed and learn more about the public institutions in your community and how the decisions they make impact you and everyone around you.
- Service is just one activity in the Points of Light Civic Circle that you can use to lead and lend support to causes you care about. To learn more, visit <https://pointsoflight.org/civiclif/>.



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The Civic Circle represents your power to lead, lend support and take action for causes you care about and to lead a civic life.