



President's Volunteer Service Award Criteria



NEST4US is now an official certifying organization for the [President's Volunteer Service Award](#) (PVSA)! Established in 2003, this national program, created by the President's Council on Service & Civic Participation, honors Americans who inspire others to engage in volunteer service through their demonstrated commitment & example over the course of 12 months.

Frequently Asked Questions

About the President's Volunteer Service Award

What is the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA)?

In 2003, the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation founded the PVSA to recognize the important role of volunteers in America's strength and national identity and honors individuals whose service positively impacts communities in every corner of the nation and inspires those around them to take action, too. This prestigious award is given to incredible leaders who go above and beyond to make the world a better place through volunteerism.

Volunteer Eligibility

Who is eligible for PVSA?

- ❖ United States citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States (ex: green card holders)
- ❖ Must be at least five years old
- ❖ Completes eligible service within a 12-month period (for annual Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards) and over a lifetime (for Lifetime Achievement Awards)

Eligible Service includes:

- ❖ Unpaid acts of volunteer service benefiting others
 - Service through National service programs that provide a stipend (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps) may count towards the Lifetime Achievement Award, but not for the annual Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards)



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- Travel stipends, transit/parking passes, membership passes, expense reimbursements, and other nominal volunteer support don't impact service eligibility

Eligible Service does NOT include:

- ❖ Paid acts of volunteer service
- ❖ Donating funds or items
- ❖ Political lobbying (Non-partisan voter registration is an eligible activity)
- ❖ Religious instruction
- ❖ Attending/organizing fundraising events
- ❖ Conducting worship service
- ❖ Proselytizing
- ❖ Participating in virtual workshops and seminars
- ❖ Volunteer service performed as part of court-ordered community service
- ❖ Serving only family members
- ❖ Virtual volunteering activities (however, will accept up to 25 hours max in 1 year)
- ❖ Hosting donation drives or donating towards a donation drive

What do you need to apply for PVSA?

1. Proof of United States citizenship or lawful permanent residence
2. Volunteer Log: Track & maintain service hours in a volunteer log with the following:
 - ❖ Volunteer Name (First & Last Name)
 - ❖ Organization Name
 - ❖ Service Activity & Task Performed
 - ❖ Date, Time, & Location of Event
 - ❖ Service Hours Completed
 - ❖ Supervisor Contact Information: Name, Email, & Phone Number
3. Picture Proof of Volunteer Service: Please keep track of pictures of ALL service activities in order to verify hours.



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4. Reference/Recommendation Letter: Volunteers must also submit a letter of nomination/recommendation from one of the following:
- The direct supervisor/agency representative working with the volunteer
 - School Administrator
 - Leader of Community-Based Organization

Once you have all the required materials, submit your PVSA application [here!](#)

Important Notes:

- ❖ Connection must be a representative of a verified nonprofit, organization, or school. Students cannot list a parent's, sibling's, friend's (or their own!) name and email as the primary contact. The contact's email should match the organization.
- ❖ Listing accurate and valid contact information is the best way to get service hours approved. Otherwise, students risk not having volunteer hours approved.
- ❖ NEST4US tracks, verifies, and reports hours to The Corporation for National Community Service. We will review ALL service hour entries and maintain the right to contact beneficiary organizations to verify volunteer work completed. NEST4US has final discretion on volunteer eligibility and may reject any entries that are incorrectly documented or unsubstantiated.

Can volunteers submit hours earned from service activities outside of NEST4US?

Hours counted towards the PVSA do NOT need to be uniquely earned for this award. Service hours contributed through, or as part of, school clubs, Boy/Girl Scouts, or similar civic or community initiatives may be applied towards PVSA recognition, at the discretion of NEST4US. The only requirement is that all volunteer hours submitted for PVSA approval must be within a 12 month period!



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Award Information:

Know Your PVSA Award Levels

Hours Required to Earn Awards in Each Age Group

Age Group	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Lifetime Achievement Award
Kids (5–10 years old)	26–49 hours	50–74 hours	75+ hours	4,000+ hours
Teens (11–15)	50–74 hours	75–99 hours	100+ hours	4,000+ hours
Young Adults (16–25)	100–174 hours	175–249 hours	250+ hours	4,000+ hours
Adults (26+)	100–249 hours	250–499 hours	500+ hours	4,000+ hours

What will volunteers receive in their award package?

- ❖ The official President’s Volunteer Service Award medallion
- ❖ A personalized certificate of achievement
- ❖ Letter signed by the President of the United States

Do volunteers have to pay for their award package?

- ❖ No, there is no cost for the PVSA award package! NEST4US will order and pay for ALL official awards.

Benefits of the President’s Volunteer Service Award

Why should you apply for PVSA?

Earning a President’s Volunteer Service Award may seem like a big goal and something hard to achieve with school, sports, and other activities. But if you find a cause you love or an organization that inspires you to make a difference, the hours will fly by. Involving your friends in something that inspires you is an opportunity to mix it up and make new memories. It shows dedication over time, which is a great character strength. You’ll also discover that when you help others, you can go far in life by learning, growing, and getting the recognition from colleges and future employers who appreciate your heart and giving spirit. Earn the President’s Volunteer Service Award through NEST4US today!