



VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Values for Living—Cadet Character Development Forum (For Online Delivery)

INTRODUCTION

Each Values for Living helps cadets explore a virtue from multiple angles and practice that virtue through a hands-on activity. The combination of analysis and practice helps cadets internalize the virtue so it "sticks" and stays with them beyond the end of the squadron meeting.

We all lead busy lives and sometimes struggle with packed schedules. Why would we want to volunteer in addition to the other demands that press in on our daily lives? **Volunteer Service**, one of CAP's core values, benefits both you and those you serve by positively influencing your community and making the world a better place for all.

PRECLASS CHECKLIST

Prior preparation is essential to success. Please prepare the following well ahead of time:

- All media installed and checked out
- Handouts and materials prepared and available as per teacher instruction sheet
- Phase Three cadet orientation/training completed
- Participation awards such as candy or granola bar treats available
- Room arrangements complete

ATTENTION GETTER

LARGE GROUP FACILITATED BY CHAPLAIN/CDI/COMMANDER (5-10 MINUTES.)

Option 1: Multimedia: *How to be a Hero: Motivating Yourself to Volunteer*

YouTube link if you have internet available: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEcm2_W8FH4
A downloadable version of this video is also available in the Axis LMS and the online Cadet Library courtesy of Because I Said I Would.¹

¹ Video file of *How to be a Hero: Motivating Yourself to Volunteer* provided for instructional use courtesy of Because I Said I Would. © 2019 all rights reserved.

Option 2: Personal story

Share a story about what inspired you to become a volunteer and the positive effects it has had in your life. How has your volunteer service made a difference in the lives of others? What kinds of rewards have you experienced? (Most rewards for volunteer service are intangible.)

Option 3: Current event

Share a current event (preferably within the past week) that illustrates the value of volunteer service in your community, your wing, or in another venue. Search for “volunteers and [current event]” to find examples.

UNDERSTANDING THE DESIRED BEHAVIOR

SMALL GROUP FACILITATED BY PHASE 3 CADET LEADERS (10 MINUTES.)

In this first discussion block, cadets will explore volunteer service by considering their own lives and experience. Begin the discussion with the following prompts.

- What's the nicest thing that a stranger ever did for you?
- Outside of CAP, how do you serve the people around you?
- What motivates you to volunteer your time and talent?
- How does your volunteer service benefit you?

Some cadets may struggle with the last prompt. Facilitators may ask leading questions to help cadets reach new insights. For example:

- How do you feel after volunteering?
- Have you learned anything from volunteering?
- What changes have you seen as a result of your volunteer service?
- If you weren't volunteering, what might you do with your time?

APPLICATION OF THE BEHAVIOR TO THEIR LIVES

LARGE GROUP FACILITATED BY CHAPLAIN/CDI/COMMANDER (10 MINUTES)

In this second discussion block, cadets will discuss volunteer service within the Civil Air Patrol. The questions are slightly more theoretical and probing.

- CAP's Core values are based on the Air Force's Core Values. Whereas the Air Force says, “service before self,” the Civil Air Patrol advocates “volunteer service.” What is the difference and why do you think CAP chose “volunteer service”?
- CAP describes its members as “professional volunteers.” How would you explain the difference between a *normal* volunteer and a *professional* volunteer?

- Think about the normal activities of our squadron. What do we—both cadets and senior members—do to become and remain “professional volunteers?”
- Many CAP members practice volunteer service by participating in our Emergency Services missions. Apart from those missions, how else could you use your time and training to serve your community?

ACTIVITY

LED BY CADET FACILITATORS (10 MINUTES.)

Action Plan of a “Professional Volunteer”

This activity asks each cadet to make a specific plan for practicing “professional volunteer service.” Each student should have a piece of paper and a pencil/pen. A reproducible handout is included with this lesson.

- Under “I WILL SERVE,” have the cadets complete the sentence to describe whom they intend to serve as a volunteer. This sentence answers the WHO of each cadet’s volunteer service. There are many opportunities to serve within our own families and neighborhoods. Encourage cadets to think about people who are especially vulnerable or underserved.
- Under “I WILL SERVE BY,” have them complete the sentence to describe the things they intend to do. Encourage the cadets to consider using the skills and resources received through Civil Air Patrol to serve their communities. This sentence answers the WHAT of volunteer service.
- Under “I WILL PRACTICE PROFESSIONALISM BY,” have them complete the sentence to describe the standards by which they will evaluate their service. This sentence answers the HOW of volunteer service.

As time allows, ask the cadets to share their proposed action plans with the group. You will be surprised by the creativity and ambition of tomorrow’s leaders! Facilitators should find something to praise in each proposal.

You can either send the activity sheets home with the cadets, or collect all the proposals and share them with the unit commander. Perhaps this exercise will help the unit identify a new service project!

LESSON SUMMARY AND WRAP-UP

LARGE GROUP FACILITATED BY CHAPLAIN/CDI/COMMANDER (2 MINUTES)

The Chaplain or CDI should conclude the lesson with a summary, such as the following:

Today we've explored our core value of Volunteer Service. We've seen that volunteer service meets the needs of others, benefits the volunteer, and makes the world a better place. We have also identified some challenges facing our communities and considered how these challenges might also be opportunities for service. After this lesson, you should have several ideas about how reach out of to those in need and better prepare yourselves as professional volunteers.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth." — Muhammad Ali

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." — Winston Churchill

"Only a life lived for others is worth living." — Albert Einstein

"I believe that every human mind feels pleasure in doing good to another." — Thomas Jefferson

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due when it is in your power to act."
— Proverbs 3:27



VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Cadet Activity Handout

ACTION PLAN OF A PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEER

A VOLUNTEER AIRMAN'S PLAN FOR MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE

I AM A PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEER AIRMAN IN THE CIVIL AIR PATROL.

Whom will you serve as a volunteer? There are many opportunities to serve within our own families and neighborhoods. Think about people who are especially vulnerable or underserved.

I WILL SERVE:

What specifically can you do to serve the people you identified? Consider using the skills and resources received through Civil Air Patrol to serve your community.

I WILL SERVE BY:

By what standard will you evaluate your service? Holding yourself to a standard helps mark you as a professional.

I WILL PRACTICE PROFESSIONALISM BY:

Important: Safety first! Make sure any volunteer service you perform is under the direction of competent adult supervision and follows the current standards set by local, county, state, and national authorities.

Keep yourself and others safe.