



Leadership through Service

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President's Volunteer Service Award

Phi Sigma Pi is a certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA), a national honor that recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service and civic participation.

Please note: The PVSA program is currently on pause and not accepting new applications at this time. While the program is paused, we strongly encourage our Members to continue logging their volunteer hours. We will continue to recognize and celebrate our Members' dedication to their communities during this time. It is our intention that, once the PVSA program resumes, we will place orders for the 2024–2025 year to ensure that eligible Members receive the recognition they've earned. [Learn more here.](#)

[Recognition Through Phi Sigma Pi](#)

While the PVSA is on hold, Phi Sigma Pi remains committed to recognizing the incredible impact our Members are making. During this time, we will honor qualifying volunteer service hours through a Phi Sigma Pi Volunteer Recognition Program. This initiative ensures that your service continues to be celebrated and acknowledged, even while the national PVSA program is paused.

2025 - 2026 Award Year

Volunteer service hours are completed between July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. All service hours must be reported to the National Office by July 10, 2026, to be counted.

Eligible Service

Unpaid acts of volunteer service benefiting others (can be in-person or virtual). Eligible service does NOT include: donating funds, political lobbying (non-partisan voter registration is an eligible activity), religious instruction, conducting worship service, proselytizing, volunteer service performed as part of court-ordered community service and serving only family members.

This document includes ideas for volunteer service opportunities and databases. *However, this is not an exhaustive list.* Members should submit any volunteer acts of service they complete during the year for other charitable organizations.



Reporting Hours to the National Office

Members will report their volunteer service hours via CORE. [Go here](#) to log your Volunteer Service Hours ([instructions](#)). If you need assistance with your login, email core@phisigmapi.org.

Go here for [more information](#) on the award package levels and Chapter awards.

Phi Sigma Pi

Note: These activities ARE eligible for the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Serve as a Chapter Officer/Committee Chair - Members who serve as a Chapter Executive Board Officer and/or Committee Chair can log the hours they spend planning, organizing and completing tasks related to their position.

[National Committee Volunteer](#) - The National Council leads several standing committees including the Awards, Scholarship & Emblem Committee, Constitution & Chapter Standards and National Development Committee. Members can volunteer to serve on one of these committees and/or special committees and working groups as organized by the National Council.

[Chapter Excellence Board Advisor](#) - The Chapter Excellence Board (CEB) is to be an extension of the National Office's Chapter Services team in order to provide support from engaged and knowledgeable Alumni. CEB Alumni volunteers are to serve as educators, coaches and mentors to assist Collegiate Chapters in implementing strong and successful operational practices.

Volunteer for Phi Sigma Pi - Support Chapter operations, recruitment, Day of Giving and more! Email volunteer@phisigmapi.org to get connected to a volunteer opportunity.

National Philanthropy - Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY)

Note: These activities ARE eligible for the President's Volunteer Service Award.

[Volunteer for HOBY](#) - There are more than 70 weekend HOBY Leadership Seminars held in the U.S. each spring. **Volunteering just one weekend seminar will guarantee your 100 hours and the Bronze Award.** These programs are only possible through the efforts of more than 4,000 volunteers dedicated to making a difference for the youth of their state. Learn more about HOBY's [volunteer positions](#) and fill out your volunteer application.



Service Partners

Note: These activities ARE eligible for the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Gift of Life - Phi Sigma Pi is excited to partner with Gift of Life Marrow Registry. Through this partnership, Chapters will help recruit new blood stem cell and bone marrow donors to Gift of Life's registry to save the lives of blood cancer patients.

Extra Life - Phi Sigma Pi is excited to partner with Extra Life, a program through the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Through this partnership, Members and Chapters can participate in gaming events to bring awareness and raise funds for their local Children's Miracle Network Hospital.

Learn to Be - Phi Sigma Pi is excited to partner with Learn to Be, a nonprofit bringing free, 1-on-1 online tutoring for students from under-resourced communities. Members can apply to be a virtual tutor to support students in reaching their academic goals. Along with eligible service hours, you also have the opportunity to earn scholarships and letters of recommendation. [Apply to be a volunteer tutor here.](#)

Volunteer Acts of Service

Note: These activities ARE eligible for the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Make dog toys out of old t-shirts - Have old t-shirts around your house you don't wear anymore, think about making dog toys out of them for a local humane society.

Make cards for a local Children's Hospital - Use your creative side to make cards and spread joy for a local Children's Hospital. You can also send virtual cards to [St. Jude](#).

Cards for a local Hospice House - Check out some information on [what to write](#) and [where to send them](#).

Send a letter to an active duty soldier or veteran. You can use [A Million Thanks](#) for the information on what to write, how to send and where to send it.

Color a Smile - Color drawings to brighten the days of senior citizens, our troops overseas, and anyone in need of a smile

Decorate Lunch Bags for Meals on Wheels - In addition to receiving the hot portion of the meal in a tray, Meals on Wheels recipients get the cold portion in a lunch bag. Add life to their meals by decorating lunch bags! Simply buy paper lunch bags and use your creativity, crayons, markers, stickers, or any art materials you have on hand. See instructions and examples [here](#).

Make No-Sew Fleece Blankets - These fuzzy fleece blankets are fun to create and they provide comfort to a child in need.



[Transcribe docs with the Smithsonian Institute](#) - Join 14,633 "volunpeers" to add more to the total 514,253 pages of field notes, diaries, ledgers, logbooks, currency proof sheets, photo albums, manuscripts, biodiversity specimens labels that have been collaboratively transcribed and reviewed since June 2013.

[Compete in a Virtual 5K for a Charity](#) - Pick a race to complete and the donations go to charity.

[Transcribe Library of Congress Documents](#) - Improve access to history by transcribing, reviewing, and tagging Library of Congress documents.

[Translators without Borders](#) - If you are fluent in at least one language other than your native language, you can become a translator volunteer.

[7 Cups](#) - Become a listener after going through training for those looking for emotional support.

[Be My Eyes](#) - Lend your eyes to solve tasks for people who are blind or who have low vision.

[LibriVox](#) - Read and record chapters of books in the public domain and make them available on the internet.

[VocaliD](#) - Lend your voice to be used to diversify the voices we hear in speaking devices and apps.

[Learning Ally](#) - Become part of a team that empowers dyslexic, blind and visually impaired students to succeed in school and in life.

[Project Gutenberg](#) - Project Gutenberg is an online database with over 60,000 ebooks. Started in 1971, they are committed to creating the largest online library. The free books provide educational materials to those unable to access a regular library. Projects include: proofreading ebooks, procuring eligible paper books, and burning CDs and DVDs for those without internet access.

[Distributed Proofreaders](#) - As a volunteer on distributed proofreaders, you can work on tasks such as proofreading, "smooth reading" pre-released ebooks to check for errors, managing projects, providing content, or even helping develop improvements to the site. This means that there is a wide variety of online tasks that require various skills that this organization needs help with.

[Love Letters for Literacy](#) - Love Letters for Literacy provides handmade packets of 26 alphabet letters to pre-readers to promote early childhood literacy in at-risk neighborhoods. How can you get involved at home? Create themed alphabet cards - all you need are index cards, art supplies, and a good attitude! It is the perfect way to spend some time at home.

[Amnesty Decoders](#) - From the Amnesty International website: "Amnesty Decoders is an innovative platform for volunteers around the world to use their computers or phones to help our researchers sift through pictures, information and documents." This program conducts research essential to securing human rights for individuals around the world.

[Code for America Brigade](#) - Brigade members work on projects to improve their local communities. In particular, the Network's Priority Action Areas are the best opportunities to engage.



[DIY History](#) - DIY History is a crowdsourced volunteer project from the University of Iowa's Digital Library. Projects include war diaries and letters, social justice publications, early manuscripts and fanzines.

[Bookshare](#) - Clean up scanned RTF files from other volunteers and format them, or use your scanner and OCR software to scan books in RTF that they don't have in the collection. This can be done remotely.

[Grand Canyon Historical Society](#) - Conduct oral interviews in order to preserve the personal stories and history of those who witnessed, or know about any aspect of, Grand Canyon's history.

Find Volunteer Opportunities

[Points of Light](#) - The World's Largest Digital Volunteer Network - Points of Light Engage pulls volunteer opportunities from sites around the web to provide the most comprehensive database of volunteer opportunities around the world. Individuals can search for volunteer projects, nonprofits can post and manage event sign-ups, and visitors are invited to start projects of their own – all in one place.

[Catchafire](#) - What is the activity: On Catchafire, nonprofits can advertise opportunities that they require assistance with. Individuals can then apply to help them with these activities. Some applications also require an interview. Activities that the nonprofits often advertise include things such as proofreading fliers or even helping them to create an online brand. Therefore, if you are a public relations or design major these opportunities may be something you have experience with. These activities often require a set time commitment of several hours a week for multiple weeks.

[Citizen science opportunities](#) - Get involved in several ways with National Geographic.

[ForGood](#) - This database is out of South Africa and they focus on projects based there, but they have a good online volunteering tool to utilize.

Other Opportunities to Give Back

*Note: The activities are **NOT eligible** for the President's Volunteer Service Award.*

[Charity Miles](#) - This free app rewards a charity of your choice just by you moving. Every mile you move (by running, walking, or even dancing) will help you earn money for your charity. You can do it as a group and make even more of a difference. (Note: Starting in the 2024-2025 reporting year, Charity Miles does not qualify for the President's Volunteer Service Award).

[Forest](#) - Now more than ever, we need screen breaks. Give back while putting down your phone. Forest will plant real trees as a reward for taking a break from your devices.

[FreeRice](#) - Get this trivia app and feed others. Make it a competition between Members. "As you play Freerice and answer the questions right, advertisements appear on your screen. When you see one of these



advertisements, you trigger a financial payment to the World Food Programme (WFP) to support its work saving and changing lives around the world.”

Free the Ocean - What is the activity: Answer daily questions on Free the Ocean to help clean up the ocean. Each question answered removes a “piece of plastic from the ocean” and is about ocean trivia and knowledge. You can create an account that tracks your daily progress. However, you can only answer one question a day.

Free Kibble - You can answer daily questions on Freekibble each question answered gives 10 pieces of kibble. It does not matter if the question is right or wrong on this site. There are a couple of categories you can answer a daily question in such as feed dogs or feed cats. There is a cap on the number of questions you can answer daily without an account though. It is not possible to create an individual account on this site for free and membership is \$5 a month.

Zooniverse - Assist the Zooniverse with online research. You’ll be able to study authentic objects of interest gathered by researchers, like images of faraway galaxies, historical records and diaries, or videos of animals in their natural habitats. By answering simple questions about them, you’ll help contribute to our understanding of our world, our history, our Universe, and more.

eBird - Track bird populations.

World Hunger Quizzes - Learn more about hunger by reading essential information on important aspects of hunger in the world and the United States, and answering several questions. When you answer one or more of these quizzes, Hunger Notes will make a donation to assist hungry people for each quiz taken. The donation ranges from \$.02 to \$.10 depending on how much money the organization has available for the hunger quizzes.