

2017-2018 NATIONAL EVENTS



What is a national event?

National Events are the hallmark of the Student Corps year and are what help bring this community of students together. Together, chapters across the nation will work together on ten events proposed by the Student Corps to serve the nation's needs. With events focused on education, environmentalism, hunger, and the community, the National Events are the best way for you and your chapter to get ideas about how to do community service, and find a starting point to do so. We hope these events expand your perspectives and help you realize the impact that we, the student community, have on the world.

What are the requirements?

To maintain membership in the Student Corps, each chapter must complete a long-term event and short-term event. This is not designed as a limitation, but as a way for chapters to find ways to do service outside of their comfort zones. With a little prompting, you may find yourself a new passion or project to dedicate yourself to!

Can I do more?

We'd love to hear about your experiences completing the National Events. Contact us at studentcorps.org@gmail.com to submit your story, to be published on our website.

Who should I bring?

Once the chapter officers have decided upon two National Events, they must open the events to the entire chapter, so that anyone may participate. These events are often stronger when completed in large groups, and are much more fun that way! For instance, one idea is to combine your forces with nearby chapters. However, there are no restrictions on how many people must participate.

Contact us!

Please contact us at studentcorps.org@gmail.com with any questions as to how to complete National Events.

Long-term Events



BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS

OBJECTIVE: Serve as a mentor for students involved in the Big Brother Big Sisters program

AGE: Anyone!

OUR VALUES: Commitment to community, mentorship to youth, dedication to creating opportunities, establishing relationships.

The Student Corps is delighted to present an event dedicated to our partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters. The mission of Student Corps has always been to create a community of students dedicated to serving other students -- and what better way than to become a Big Brother or Big Sister?

In this event, your chapter members will connect with your local Big Brothers Big Sisters of USA branch by going to [this link](#). Then, you will connect with your local Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliate CEO to establish a lasting relationship throughout (and beyond!) the Student Corps volunteer year.

Afterwards, your options are flexible, depending on your affiliate branch:

Site-Based Mentoring

- You will meet with Little Brothers and Sisters to offer them guidance and establish a relationship.

High School Mentoring

- You will help Little Brothers and Sisters acclimate to high school and tell them about high school culture.

Participate in Events

- Contact your affiliate Big Brothers Big Sisters branch to see how you and your chapter can offer your time and service.

LONG TERM EVENT



CAN YOU RECYCLE IT?

OBJECTIVE: Collect recyclables to simultaneously help reprocess waste and fundraise for students.

AGE: Anyone!

OUR VALUES: Commitment to community, preservation of the environment, instilling responsibility, helping fellow students.

Did you know that we throw away 25 million plastic bottles every hour? How about the fact that there is no limit to the number of times aluminum cans can be recycled? Both of these facts highlight the importance of recycling as a way to reduce our impact on the natural environment.

Many states have taken steps to encourage conscientious recycling practices by offering financial compensation for recyclables such as bottles and cans. If you live in any of the states listed on the right, research their recycling programs to discover the next steps you'll need to follow to complete this event.

By collecting recyclable cans and bottles to exchange for money through these programs, you will both represent the value of environmental consciousness and help fundraise for the Student Corps scholarship. At the end of the year, the National Board of the Student Corps will choose a worthy student from the Big Brothers Big Sisters program to sponsor, and donate money collected through this event and others to help support that student.

The purpose of the Student Corps is for the student community to help fellow students. This event will help us fulfill that mission, as well as showcase our community's dedication to the preservation of the environment.

- California
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Hawaii
- Iowa
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- New York
- Oregon
- Vermont

LONG TERM EVENT



DOWN-TO-EARTH

OBJECTIVE: Discover local sanctuaries and make efforts to preserve them, learn about local flora, and spread awareness.

AGE: Anyone!

OUR VALUES: Commitment to community, preservation of the environment, learning about the neighborhood, spreading awareness.

Do you know where all the local parks are in your neighborhood? Maybe you don't know a thing about local horticulture and conservation councils. In this event, you will explore your town's conservation grounds, and choose a park to help maintain and learn about throughout a year.

To find your local sanctuaries, try contacting your town's conservation council! Often, these councils will be able to direct you to locations near you in search of help and service.

After that, there are many paths you and your chapter can take to protect these sanctuaries, including:

Year-long Clean Ups

- Maintaining a sanctuary is hard work! Many sanctuary guardians need help clearing paths or removing debris after storms. Consider offering your chapter's time to help restore sanctuaries for visitors.

Spread Awareness

- If you didn't know about your local sanctuary before asking about it, chances are, others won't have either. Try making an event that brings the local community together in your park, so that you can show people their local wonders!

Educate Visitors

- The diversity of life in local sanctuaries is amazing. Dedicate time to learning and teaching about your sanctuary by making brochures or web pages explaining the different fauna and flora living in your local park!

LONG TERM EVENT



GET WELL SOON!

OBJECTIVE: Volunteer at hospitals to bring a smile to patients' faces, or help the hospital run efficiently.

AGE: Anyone!

OUR VALUES: Commitment to community, devotion to academia, broadening our perspectives, compassion for others.

One area of town always looking for help from students is the hospital. For those interested in entering biomedical fields, a chance to gain insight on the inner workings of a hospital can be invaluable experience as well. Here are a few ways you can lead your chapter to help hospitals:

Change the atmosphere

There are many ways to brighten up a hospital room! For instance, create an event in which students gather to [paint colorful pictures](#), or practice a medley of songs to perform for patients.

Fundraise for facilities

Hospitals are always appreciative of extra funding to help support indispensable services. Raise money through a school bake sale, or host a raffle to fundraise for your local hospital throughout the year.

Provide clerical support

Even if you are not interested in entering biomedical fields, you can always offer your help at hospital gift shops or registration desks. Without much training, you can be a helpful member of the hospital staff!

Assist patient services

Though this requires some heavier training, helping hospitals with patient services can be a great way to contribute your time, as well as learn about what it is like to be a doctor or nurse. Volunteering at the hospital will offer experience that transcends the classroom walls!

LONG TERM EVENT



CHANGE FOR CHANGE

OBJECTIVE: Contribute your time towards fundraising for the Student Corps scholarship.

AGE: Anyone!

OUR VALUES: Commitment to community, devotion and perseverance, dedication to creating opportunities, helping fellow students

Every year, the Student Corps community is proud to come together and create a scholarship for a child enrolled in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. This is our contribution to the national community of students: the chance for one student to receive a financial award accumulated penny by penny by our own community. Your chapter may only be able to donate some loose change, but every cent counts toward bettering the life of a student from a low-income family.

For this event, your chapter will come up with events to fundraise for the Student Corps. At the end of the volunteer year, you can donate to the Student Corps via our website, or by sending a check in the mail to our P.O. box:

**The Student Corps
P.O. Box 812509
Wellesley, MA (02482-9998)**

Student Corps is a non-profit organization, meaning all of the money donated to us at the end of the volunteer year will go toward the Student Corps scholarship. At the end of the volunteer year, the National Board will post the sum of our scholarship on the website, as well as acknowledge all of the chapters who helped contribute towards our goal.

Here are a few ideas for fundraising events:

- [113+ Amazing Fundraising Ideas](#)
- [127 Fundraising Ideas for Nonprofits and Individuals](#)

LONG TERM EVENT

Short-term Events



'TIS THE SEASON

OBJECTIVE: Host a meal drive during the holiday season near your local supermarket.

AGE: Anyone!

OUR VALUES: Commitment to community, compassion for others, instilling responsibility, alleviating community challenges.

While you may be celebrating the holiday season for its festivities and cheer, don't forget the spirit behind the holiday -- the spirit of generosity, community, and warmth.

Stay conscientious during the holiday season by hosting a meal drive for your local food pantry.

\$20 can provide 5 holiday meals for the homeless.

Step 1: Find your nearest food pantry by using [this site](#).

Step 2: Gather a group of students willing to host a drive.

Step 3: Contact your local supermarket manager to ask for permission to run a food drive outside of their store.

Step 4: Host your food drive! Look at your local food pantry's website to see their guidelines on what types of foods they accept. Accept food and money donations.

Step 5: Drop off your donations at your local food pantry!

SHORT TERM EVENT



SWEET TOOTH

OBJECTIVE: Collect leftover Halloween candy to distribute to various non-profit organizations.

AGE: Anyone!

OUR VALUES: Commitment to community, compassion for others, instilling responsibility, alleviating community challenges.

The night of October 31 is always very exciting: after the commotion of collecting together a costume and traipsing door to door, you are often left at home sorting giant mounds of candies and chocolates into two piles: Wanted and Not Wanted.

This is the case for many students. Invariably, much of one's Halloween candy is left to expire over the year, to be thrown into the garbage during next year's Halloween.

Thanks to Operation Gratitude, you can give your leftover candy to deployed troops and first responders overseas, the protectors of the American people. We students can do our part to show our appreciation for our troops by offering them our Halloween candy, which can serve as a sentimental reminder of the peace and freedom we are lucky to have in America.

Here are some ideas for candy drives:

- Set up a candy drive at your school. Consider separating classrooms into teams, and compete to see who can come up with the heaviest bag of treats to donate!
- Go around the neighborhood after Halloween and explain your event, to see if anyone is willing to offer up their candy. Many adults have extra candy they weren't able to hand out during Halloween to add to your pile.

Look for your closest Operation Gratitude location [here](#). Their website urges you to "Please call to confirm participation, dates, and hours available prior to taking your donation." You can find further instructions [here](#).

SHORT TERM EVENT



BY THE BOOK

OBJECTIVE: Dedicate service to your local library to improve their services or host community events.

AGE: Anyone!

OUR VALUES: Commitment to community, devotion to academia, fostering local education, helping fellow students.

In 1731, our founding father Benjamin Franklin drafted a plan for the first ever library in the United States, because according to him, “Being ignorant is not so much a shame, as being unwilling to learn.” Today, libraries are a great example of the community coming together to serve itself and provide resources to the public. Nevertheless, libraries are often in need of help from students.

Here are some ways to contribute your chapter’s service to your local libraries:

Maintain the Library

- Libraries are always looking for helpers for custodial work, managing circulation, and facilitating programs. Contact your local library to find its needs.

Host a Book Drive

- Books are at the heart of a successful library. Host a book drive, or collect cheap books from garage sales to donate to your local or school library.

Set up an Art Gallery

- Contact local artists to see if they are willing to display their art, or connect your high school and your local library to offer high school artists the chance to exhibit their work.

Teach a Class

- Discover your chapter’s strengths, and offer to teach a seminar or course on subjects you excel at! Teach something you love to your community.

SHORT TERM EVENT



A GREEN THUMB

OBJECTIVE: Celebrate Arbor Day by hosting a tree-planting event in your community.

AGE: Anyone!

OUR VALUES: Commitment to community, preservation of the environment, instilling responsibility, spreading awareness for a local issue.

In the past years, deforestation, climate change, forest fires, and the introduction of invasive species have killed many trees in American forests. For this Arbor Day, host an event for planting trees to celebrate the importance of trees.

Planting trees preserves water quality in our local reservoirs, restores habitats for wildlife, reduces our carbon footprint, and helps recovery from invasive species' attacks.

Talk to your local conservation council to begin organizing a town-wide effort to plant trees. A good place to start is in school lawns, roadside gardens, and on front lawns.

If your chapter is unable to negotiate such a program, also consider fundraising for programs such as [Plant a Billion Trees](#) or the [National Forest Foundation](#).

Up to 28,000 species can go extinct in the next quarter century due to deforestation.

Tropical deforestation is the 2nd biggest contributor to climate change.

One tree can absorb as much carbon in a year as a car produces while driving 26,000 miles.

SHORT TERM EVENT



GENERATIONAL GET-TOGETHER

OBJECTIVE: Visit senior homes to bring smiles to residents' faces and listen to their stories.

AGE: Anyone

OUR VALUES: Commitment to community, compassion for others, broadening our perspectives, establishing relationships.

As youth, one of the best things students can do is bring their energy and spirit to local senior homes. Moreover, the elderly often have indispensable wisdom to share with young students. Thus, bringing together students and seniors is a great way to tighten the bonds within a community and build lifelong relationships.

There are many ways to devote your time and energy into a senior home:

1. **Be a companion:** Bring your chapter to senior homes weekly to listen to their stories over some tea and music. Share your stories with them, and listen to their own stories -- they have many!
2. **Help with dining services:** Come during a mealtime to help prepare and serve food to seniors!
3. **Brighten up their room:** After establishing a close relationship with senior residents, offer to brighten up their room by bringing fresh flowers, photographs, and colorful art. This is a wonderful way to liven up the atmosphere of a senior home.
4. **Offer to help conduct activities:** Many senior homes have activity programs, such as game nights or art projects for seniors. Give your time to help run these programs!
5. **Prepare musical or dance performances:** Do members of your chapter have musical or performing talents? Prepare a short performance to bring music into a senior home and showcase your talents.

SHORT TERM EVENT