



Voices for National Service is a coalition of national service programs, state commissions, and supporters committed to expanding opportunities for Americans to serve. Learn how your membership can help set the future direction of national service in America at www.voicesforservice.org/be_a_voice.htm.

Voices for National Service Membership Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to be a member of Voices for National Service?

Membership is open to community and faith-based organizations, public agencies, and state commissions seeking to expand opportunities for all Americans to serve. Members pay an annual dues, calculated by the size of the organization's operating budget and applicable for one calendar year.

What are the benefits of membership in Voices for National Service?

▶ **Admission to annual events:**

Voices for National Service Capitol Hill Day, More than 100 organizations gather in Washington, DC for a day of visits to congressional offices to discuss the importance of national service and to share stories of impact in communities.

Friends of National Service Awards Reception, Greater than 400 guests attend this Washington reception where we recognize distinguished elected leaders and private citizens for their work to protect and expand national service opportunities.

Policy Forums, Voices for National Service hosts regular gatherings of national service participants, thought-leaders, and academics to discuss the impact and future of national service.

▶ **Representation on Capitol Hill:** Voices for National Service initiates, monitors, and supports legislation that strengthens national service. Your membership dues support a government affairs committee, which works with public policy leaders and decision makers to inform legislation and agency regulations that affect national service programs and their participants.

▶ **Ongoing Access to Information:** A monthly *E-Newsletter*, *Action Alerts*, and www.voicesforservice.org provide up-to-date information on national service funding and legislation. The website also serves as an information portal to research and other resources on the impact of national service.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

▶ **Governance:** Steering Committee Members shape public messages and legislative strategies for Voices for National Service. They provide oversight of all events and determine the annual agenda and budget.

▶ **Branding:** Voices for National Service has considerable recognition on Capitol Hill. Steering Committee Members officially represent the coalition at public events, and they are listed on all official documents, correspondence, and collateral.

▶ **Special Committees:** The Steering Committee appoints individuals to serve on subcommittees to address issues of concern to its membership.

▶ **Participation in an active group of thought-leaders:** Steering Committee Members serve as thought-leaders for the national service field, proposing ideas for new programs and strategies to strengthen and expand national service.

What are the annual members dues?

<u>National Service Organizations and State Commissions</u>	<u>Dues</u>
Steering Committee Member	\$10,000
Member (organizational budget over \$5 million)	\$1,000
Member (organizational budget \$1 million to \$5 million)	\$500
Member (organizational budget less than \$1 Million)	\$250

What does my membership pay for?

Your membership helps pay for legislative research and analysis, strategic communications including the maintenance of the website (www.voicesforservice.org), as well as special events held throughout the year including the Voices for National Service Capitol Hill Day, the Friends of National Service Awards Reception, and policy forums. The events and services that Voices provides incur costs in terms of materials, staff time, and other operational expenses.

The membership dues structure does not fully fund the annual work of Voices for National Service, but rather is part of a fundraising plan that includes corporate and foundation giving. The fundraising plan is oriented towards making Voices sustainable over the long term, and the dues structure will help share the costs and responsibilities across the membership instead of relying on a few organizations to cover the significant expenses on behalf of the coalition.

Do my membership dues buy permanent membership in Voices for National Service?

Dues are required annually and secure membership for one calendar year, January 1 - December 31. You will be invoiced in the following year to renew your membership.

What is the Steering Committee?

The Steering Committee is a group of service organizations and state service commissions that each contribute a minimum of \$10,000 annually to Voices for National Service. Similar to a board of directors, the Steering Committee sets the agenda and goals of the coalition, directs coalition events, and approves communications to public policy makers.

My organization can't afford to pay the membership fee for the Steering Committee, but we have a third party funder who we could approach to pay this amount. Is that okay?

Absolutely. Our goal is to be as inclusive as possible in terms of Steering Committee membership. We hope you will consider whether your organization has a third party funder (or funders) that you can approach to help defray the cost of membership.

Are there other committees within Voices for National Service?

The Steering Committee often appoints committees to carry out the work of the coalition. At various times committees have included: the Government Affairs Committee, the Membership and Sustainability Committee, the Governance Committee, and the Project and Resource Committee. The Government Affairs Committee is a standing committee comprised of government relations professionals that meet regularly to discuss federal appropriations and current legislation affecting national service programs. The Membership and Sustainability Committee plans and implements outreach to new members and supporters. The Governance Committee has made recommendations on how to conduct coalition business to maximize input from the diverse national service field. The Project and Resource Committee has explored new initiatives of the coalition. Only individuals from member organizations may join a committee.

How can Corporations and Foundations support the work of Voices for National Service?

While the dues structure of Voices for National Service is limited to national service programs and state commissions, corporations and foundations can also support our work by sponsoring an event or new coalition project. If you are a corporation or foundation that would like to invest in our work, please contact AnnMaura Connolly at 202-742-7370.

How can Individuals support the work of Voices for National Service?

Individuals can stay informed of national service news and legislative action alerts by registering for the Voices for National Service e-newsletter. In return, individuals pledge to educate policy makers and the public about the power and impact of service. Individuals are also encouraged to join the Friends of National Service Sponsorship Circle. Individual financial contributions help support the coalition's continued work. Learn more and register online at www.voicesforservice.org/be_a_voice.htm.

What is the Friends of National Service Sponsorship Circle?

Corporations, foundations, and individuals wishing to make a donation to Voices for National Service may join the Friends of National Service Sponsorship Circle. Friends of National Service receive the benefits of admission to annual events and up-to-date information on national service funding and legislation through our E-Newsletter and Action Alerts.

<u>Friends of National Service</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
Corporation and Foundation Partners	\$5,000
Champion's Circle (listed as individual)	\$1,000
Citizen's Circle (listed as individual)	\$100
National Service Alumni/Teachers	\$25

To join the Friends of National Service Sponsorship Circle you may register at the website:
http://www.voicesforservice.org/form_fonsSponsorCircle.htm

What is the relationship between Voices for National Service and the ServiceNation Campaign?

Voices for National Service is a member coalition, representing the field of national service programs, state service commissions, and individual champions committed to growing opportunities for Americans to serve their community and nation. Founded in 2003 in response to major cuts in federal funding, Voices for National Service has built strong bipartisan support among our nation's leaders and helped position national service as a viable policy solution to tackle unmet needs in education, the environment and land conservation, public health, and housing and infrastructure.

Voices for National Service is an Organizing Committee member of ServiceNation, a new grassroots campaign that seeks passage of a comprehensive national service act signed into law by the President in the first year of his administration. The campaign brings together partners from government, the corporate sector, the arts and entertainment industry, the media, and nonprofit community for the shared goal of expanding public support for service and volunteerism. Voices for National Service is integrated into this campaign, bringing the voice of national service practitioners and thought-leaders in developing the policy agenda and supporting events.

What has Voices for National Service accomplished recently?

- ▶ Voices for National Service is working to collect feedback from the national service field and educate policymakers to inform the development of legislation to reauthorize the National and Community Service Trust Act. The 110th Congress introduced several bills to increase Incentives and opportunities for Americans to serve, including legislation to reauthorize the existing federal service programs. HR 5563, the Generations Invigorating Volunteering and Education (GIVE) Act, had tremendous bipartisan support but failed to pass by one vote.
- ▶ Helped organize a Presidential Forum on National Service in New York City, at which both then Senators John McCain and Barack Obama discussed the future of service in America. The event was broadcast by CNN.
- ▶ 150 organizations signed on to a Voices for National Service memo presented to all presidential candidates recommending bold national service initiatives.
- ▶ Cited in the Time Magazine cover story, “A Time to Serve,” by Managing Editor Richard Stengel, Voices for National Service was a primary source for the article seen by more than 3.4 million people. Other outlets have quoted VNS, including Politico, a trade publication on Capitol Hill.
- ▶ Continuous education efforts have helped protect national service funding from deep cuts.
- ▶ Working with Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA), VNS advanced legislation to support opportunities for people with disabilities to serve in AmeriCorps by protecting their Supplemental Security Income eligibility.
- ▶ Voices for National Service continues to help grow the National Service Congressional Caucus, a bipartisan group of Members of Congress dedicated to raising awareness of National Service. In 2008, Senators Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and Thad Cochran (R-MS) established a National Service Caucus in the Senate.
- ▶ More than 1,000 national service champions participated in our signature events, including the Friends of National Service Awards Reception, Voices for National Service Capitol Hill Day, and policy forums co-hosted with the Center for American Progress and Hudson Institute.

2008 Members of Voices for National Service (as of 02/13/08)

Admission Possible
 Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut
 America's Promise Alliance
 Association of State Service Commissions
 Bellflower Unified School District/AmeriCorps/APPLE
 California AmeriCorps Alliance
 CaliforniaVolunteers
 CampFire USA
 Campus Compact
 Citizen Schools
 City Year
 Communities In Schools
 Community HealthCorps
 Connecticut Commission on Community Service
 Detroit Medical Reserve Corps
 Elementary Community Service Association
 Equal Justice Works
 Experience Corps
 Girl Scouts, Connecticut Trails Council Inc.
 Habitat for Humanity International
 Innovations in Civic Participation
 Jumpstart for Young Children
 Knox Parks Foundation
 Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership (LEAP)
 Local Initiatives Support Corporation

Louisiana Delta Service Corps
 Michigan Nonprofit Association
 National Association of Foster Grandparent Program Directors
 National Association of RSVP Directors
 National Senior Corps Association
 National Service-Learning Partnership
 National Youth Leadership Council
 New Mexico Commission for Community Volunteerism
 New York City Coalition Against Hunger
 Our Piece of the Pie
 Points of Light & Hands On Network
 Public Allies
 Raymond School District, Franksville, WI
 Regional Youth/Adult Substance Abuse Project (RYASAP)
 Service-Learning United
 Southern Association of RSVP Directors
 Student Conservation Association
 Teach for America
 The Corps Network
 Utah Conservation Corps
 Western New York AmeriCorps
 Women and Families Center
 Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut
 Youth Conservation Corps
 YouthBuild USA

For more information regarding membership please e-mail info@voicesforservice.org.
 Apply for membership online at www.voicesforservice.org/be_a_voice.htm.