

HandsOn Network: The Connection Between Civic Involvement and Service

More Civic Involvement Ideas

Consider new ways to connect your volunteers' service with further civic action:

1. Create a Bill of Responsibilities

Pass out copies of the *Bill of Rights* to your volunteers. Lead a discussion by asking questions about its contents, promises, and significance. After you have discussed citizens' rights, talk about citizens' responsibilities. Ask volunteers to draft an individual or group *Bill of Responsibilities*. Afterwards, ask volunteers what they learned from the activity, the significance of what they learned, and how they might apply it.

2. Highlight Citizen Problem Solving Activities

Have volunteers scour media sources for stories about creative ways that citizens and communities are taking action to solve public problems. Ask your volunteers to come together and share the stories they have found. In addition to local news outlets, volunteers can use sources such as *Do Something* or *YES* magazine. Both of these highlight organizations and individuals working to strengthen their communities. Sharing these stories can give volunteers ideas, inspiration, and information.

3. Invite Guest Speakers

Inspire your volunteers to be inspired by the good works of others. Try locating speakers through local service clubs, volunteer centers, and government offices.

4. Discussion Groups

Compile a list of articles and books about civic involvement, assign volunteers to read selections from the list and facilitate a discussion group among your volunteers.

5. Tell Civic Stories

Provide volunteers with an opportunity to tell their stories of civic involvement. This can be done through words, performance, and visual arts. Find creative ways to display and share the stories they share. For example, create a documentary, display their work in a gallery, or compile a book.