



United through National Service Talking Points

As our country prepares to mark twenty years since 9/11 with a day of service, [United through National Service](#) will bring together unexpected voices and share stories of service to highlight how national service can unite the country, bridge divides, and restore the soul of the nation.

Americans want to prioritize programs that bring the country together — and national service can help do that.

- A January 2021 [poll](#) found that 67% of Americans believe President Biden should prioritize programs or proposals that have the ability to heal divides in the country.
- In that same poll, 63% of Americans agreed that national service programs, like AmeriCorps and Peace Corps, are a good way to help heal divides in the country.
- Additionally, [a landscape analysis and interviews with national service programs](#) found that 98% of national service programs agreed that their corps members develop empathy during national service and 91% agreed that their corps members learn about a culture different from their own during a service year.
- In our [conversations with alumni about their service year](#) experience, we found that national service participants gain the tools and resources they need to use their voices to make an impact in their community. This sense of mattering, or having “skin in the game,” contributes to the development of lifelong bridging attitudes.

National service is a bipartisan solution that both Democrats and Republicans support.

- A January 2021 [survey](#) found that 77% of respondents would support Congress passing legislation that expands national service — including 56% of Republicans and 93% of Democrats.

National service is one of the best and only tools that fuel civic renewal in America.

- By bringing together young people in common purpose, national service shows that Americans can solve problems and work together toward shared goals, regardless of where they are from, who they voted for, or what they believe.
- National service alumni are nearly two times [more likely to vote](#) than those who did not serve, are more comfortable interacting with people from different backgrounds, and feel more connected to their communities.
- National service creates a more empathetic, inclusive, and engaged generation of citizens — 93% of national service alumni [feel](#) confident interacting with people from different cultures or backgrounds after they serve.

The idea of making national service an expectation and opportunity for all young people in America brings together people from across the political and ideological spectrum. Making it a reality would bring people from all walks of life together, start to bridge the deep divides that exist between Americans, and restore the soul of the nation.

For more information about United through National Service email Aly Ferguson at aferguson@serviceyear.org.