

Youth and Family Corner

Adults can show young people how they can commit their time, energy and talent to public, national or military service in various, enriching ways. As early as elementary school, students may begin to run for student council president or join a civic club. Many American school districts observe Veterans Day to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. With the introduction of these activities, young people begin to understand what it means to serve.

Here are some ways to help young people better understand the concept of service:

A path to future military service. Many young people know about the various military branches and may even have a goal of serving in one. However, they may not know that there are opportunities to begin preparing to serve while they're still in school. Established in 1916, the U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program currently operates in more than 1,700 public and private high schools, military institutions, and correctional centers throughout the United States and around the world.

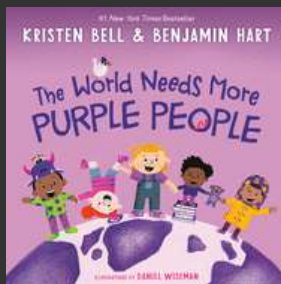
Serving their community – a path to serving their country. Through their school student council, National Honor Society or other national leadership organizations, or civic or faith-based organizations, youth can serve in leadership roles providing their time and talent to support their community. This doesn't have to always mean running for president! Serving as a member to help prepare for events, fundraise or share important information related to causes they care about can all be service. These opportunities can prepare them for future roles in service such as Peace Corps or AmeriCorps.

Supporting those who serve. While direct service isn't for everyone, young people can support those who are sharing their time and skills. Here are a few Daily Point of Light honorees doing just that:

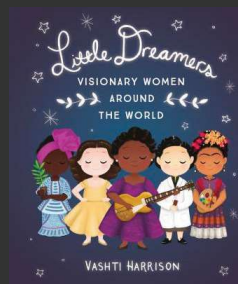
- **Derek Fletcher** started the **Washing Window For Warriors** program in Boca Raton, Florida by partnering with **Hope for the Warriors**, a nonprofit that meets the changing needs of service members and their families. Derek and his friends raise money by washing windows with a goal of reaching \$10,000 to donate to causes supporting veterans.
- **Jake Gallin** was inspired to support military families after being moved by a television show where a mother talked about her son who died at the age of 20 while fighting in Iraq in 2005. He started **Stars for Cars** in 2011, a program that sells star-shaped magnetic decals online. Its mission is to raise awareness and for civilians to show their support of military families.
- Young people don't always have to start their own organization in order to serve. Sometimes **writing nice notes** to those that are serving can go a long way.

Family Friendly Books & Resources

The following are resources for families to encourage listening and learning from others as well as information on finding other resources you can trust:



The World Needs More
Purple People
Kristen Bell &
Benjamin Hart



Little Dreamers
Vashti Harrison



Susie B. Won't
Back Down
Margaret Finnegan



Sgt. Stubby:
An American Hero



Valiant