



MLK Day Drum Majors for Service

“Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice; say that I was a drum major for peace; I was a drum major for righteousness... We all have the drum major instinct.”

– Excerpt from Dr. King’s “Drum Major Instinct” sermon, given on February 4, 1968.

MLK Drum Majors for Service are volunteers who perform extraordinary everyday acts of service with reliability and commitment, but who seldom receive recognition. Service is called by a variety of names. To some it may be outreach; to others, it may be mission driven; to still others, it may be volunteerism, ministry, or even regarded as a calling—but no matter what you call it, there are many Americans who serve every day, every month, every year through faith-based organizations and as volunteers for community groups, addressing a variety of unmet critical needs.

Now you can also recognize extraordinary volunteers – the Drum Majors for Service – with the President’s Volunteer Service Award.

The President’s Volunteer Service Award is a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. The award recognizes individuals, families, and groups that have achieved a certain standard – measured by the number of hours of service over a 12-month period or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime.

Honorees receive:

- An official President’s Volunteer Service Award lapel pin
- A personalized Certificate of Achievement
- A congratulatory letter from the President of the United States

Connect Your Event to the MLK Day of Service

The MLK Day of Service takes place on the annual federal holiday. It is the only federal holiday observed as national day of service – a “day on, not a day off.”

The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, addresses social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King’s vision of a “Beloved Community.” MLK Day takes place each third Monday in January and is led by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency responsible for volunteering and service. As you plan your MLK Day celebration or commemorative service, we encourage you to honor those who serve others to reinforce the lessons of Dr. King’s life.

Order Your Award

Visit MLKDay.gov/awards to order your award.

Share Your MLK Drum Major for Service Story

The Corporation for National and Community Service would like to know about your Drum Majors. Please take a few minutes to tell us about the person you plan to honor and what they have accomplished through their service, e-mail us at MLKDay@cns.gov.

For More Information, visit MLKDay.gov or e-mail MLKDay@cns.gov.