

SERVE WASHINGTON

Washington State Volunteer Service Awards

Information Session

Oct 15, 2024

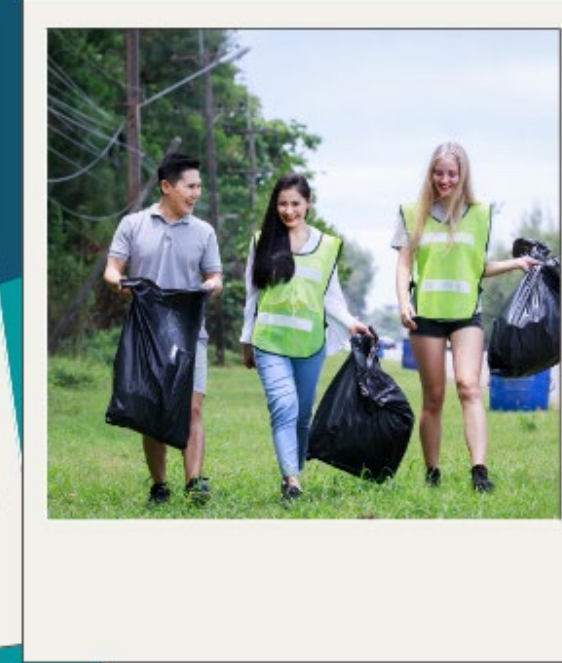
noon– 1:00 p.m.

Welcome and thank you for joining us today. We would like to learn who's attending this session.

We invite you to put in the chat:

- Your name
- Your organization or volunteer program
 - If you are affiliated with one
- Your email address

NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR A WASHINGTON STATE VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD



Scan the QR code to submit
your nomination!



Learn more:

<https://tinyurl.com/5n79t7f6>

**NOMINATIONS DUE
NOVEMBER 26, 2024**

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Presentation Agenda

- Welcome
- About Serve Washington
- What are the WA State Volunteer Service Awards & Why are They Important?
- Awardees by Regions
- Selection Process Timeline
- Nomination Process
- Nomination Guidelines & Form
- Nomination Tips/Mistakes to Avoid
- Questions



Who is Serve Washington?

STATE COMMISSION

- Created in 1994
- 20 Governor-appointed commissioners help guide work
- promotes and recognizes service and volunteerism to address community needs
- Oversight of funding for national service programming in state

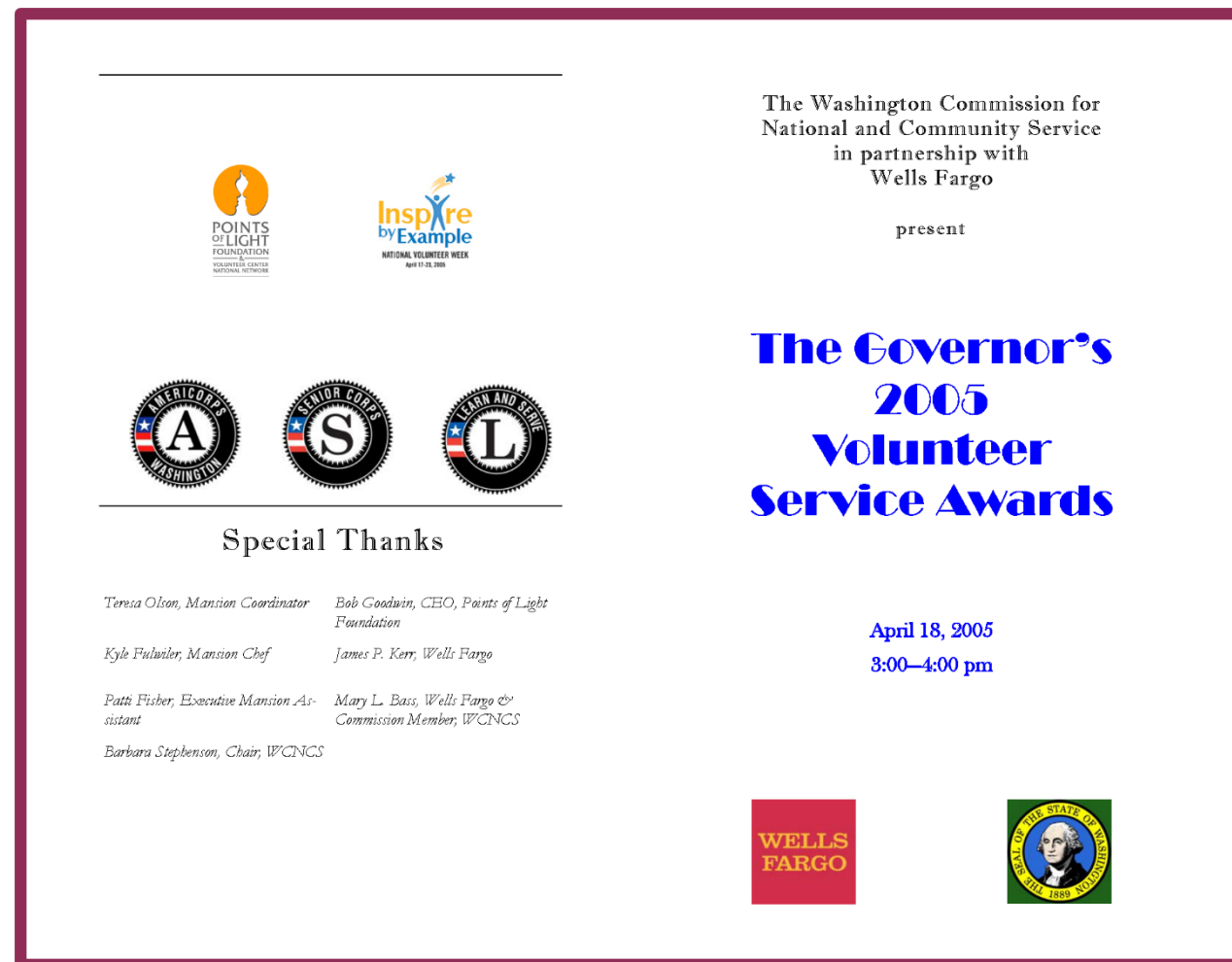
PROGRAMS

- AmeriCorps
- Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
- Statewide Volunteer website ~ Get Connected
- WA Climate Corps Network

STATE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION INITIATIVE

- Implemented in 2005

What are the WA State Volunteer Service Awards?



- Created in 2005 under former commission name Washington Commission for National and Community Service
- Awards were called Governor's Volunteer Service Awards
- Limited to volunteers recruited by National Service programs – i.e., AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, Senior Corps (now known as AmeriCorps Seniors), Learn & Serve and Volunteer Centers.
- Programs' priority focus was recruiting volunteers.

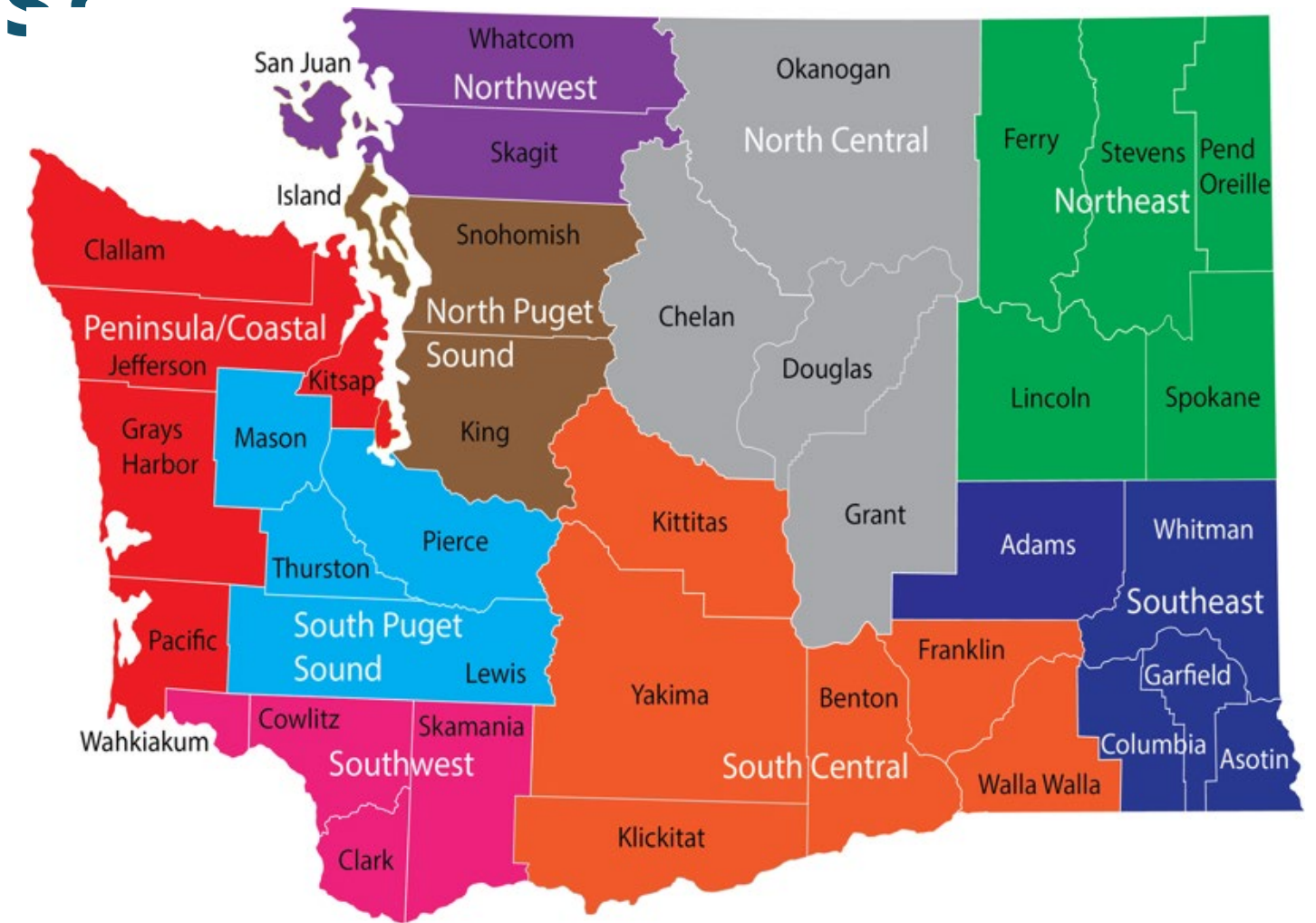
Why is Volunteer Recognition Important to Serve Washington?

- We believe that all types of service strengthen our state and are fundamental to engaged and resilient communities.
- To sustain and grow opportunities for Washingtonians to serve or volunteer, we must continue to support and build service leaders.
- Volunteer recognition increases awareness of volunteer opportunities and impacts across the state. Volunteer recognition is part of our mission and directive under governor's executive order 14-06.



Why are we selecting by Regions?

- Survey says...bringing recognition into communities would be more meaningful and inclusive
- To achieve this, created Regional Awards
- Regions align with what is used by the Nonprofits Association of Washington and 501 Commons
- Serve Washington will work with nominators and local partners to help determine how best to honor final selected honorees in community or region



Selection Process Timeline

Nomination Review Committee is inclusive of diverse community members from each region in addition to commissioner committee members.

Timeline:

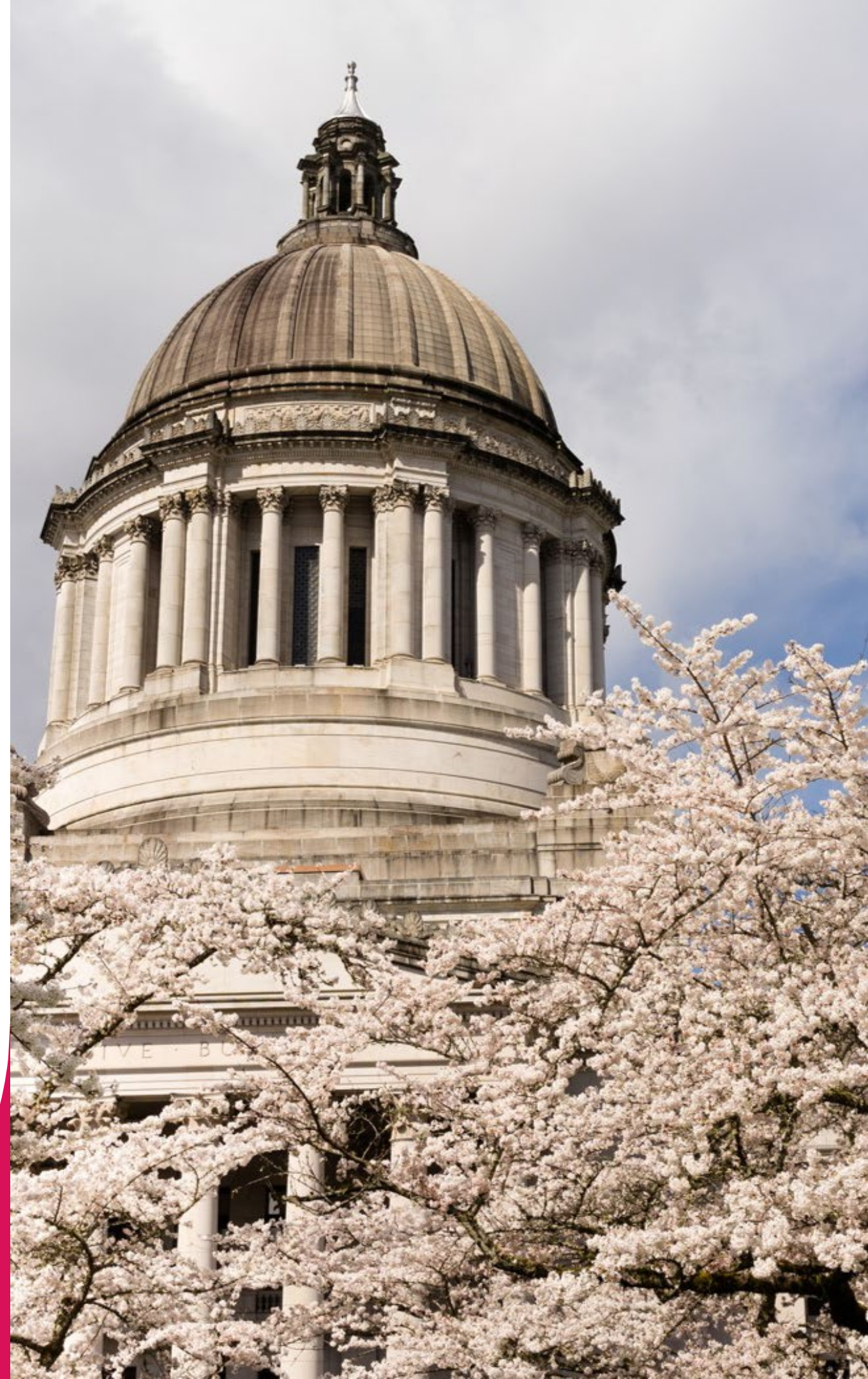
- Nov. 26- Nominations Due
- Dec. 18- The Nomination Review Committee select regional awardees
- Serve Washington will be in communication with the nominators of the finalists to begin planning recognition efforts by region.
- April is National Volunteer Month
- April 20-26, 2025 is National Volunteer Week

Nomination Process

- Call for Nominations & Guidelines released Oct. 1, 2024
- Guidelines and sample form downloadable from website: [Nomination Guidelines and Form Sample for Volunteer Service in 2024 \(wa.gov\)](#)
- Outreach efforts to help broaden awareness and potential nominations
- Provides information on identifying a potential nominee, completing the form and what happens with the nomination once submitted.
- Due date for submissions is Nov. 26, 2024

Nomination Guidelines & Form

- Nominations guidelines and sample form
<https://servewashington.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/WSVSA-Nomination-Guidelines-for-2024.pdf>
- Online nomination form:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/27e886d79d7240ee916c0bcd736868d2>
- Nominators are the storytellers



Make your words count!



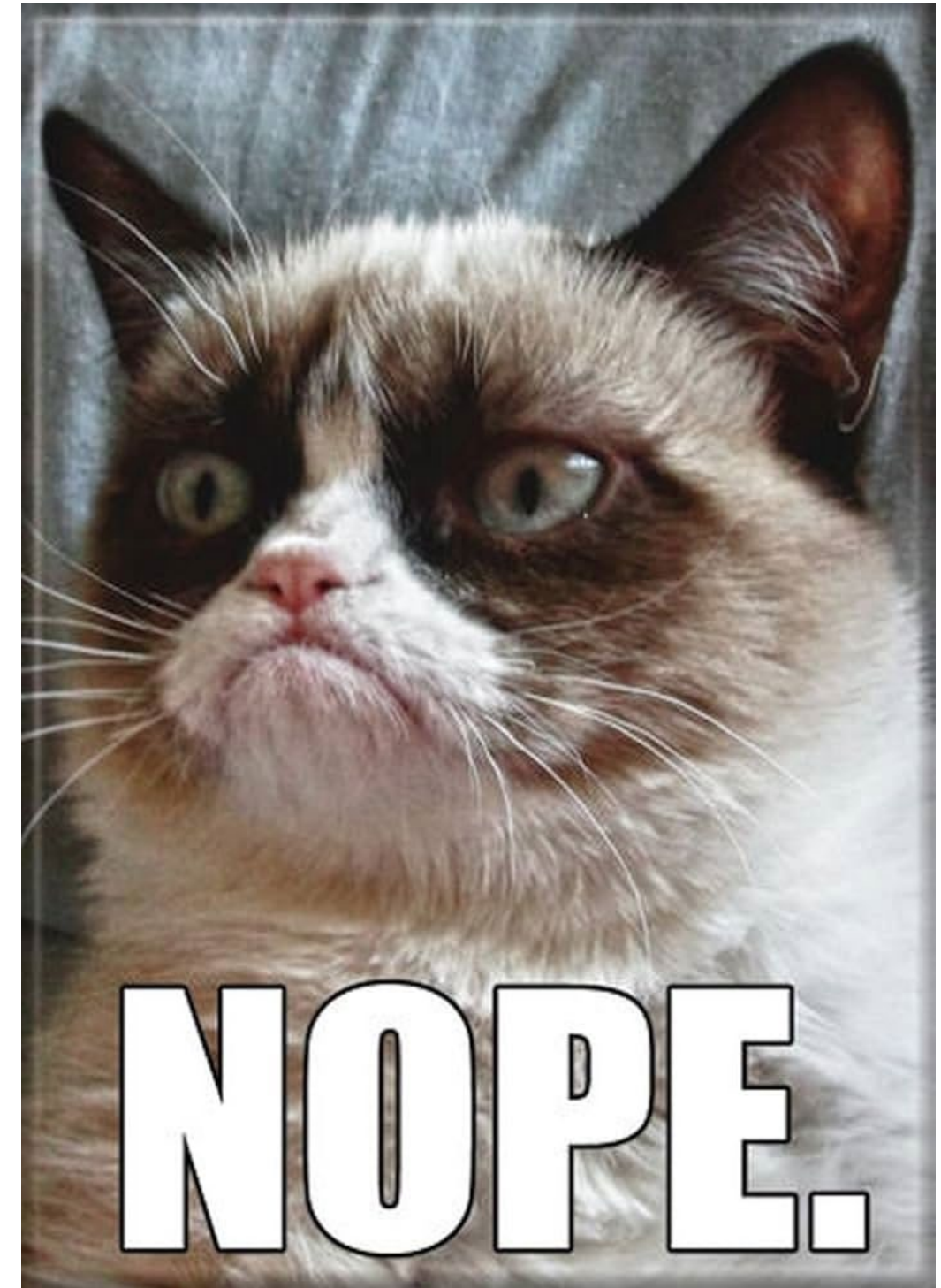
500

WORD LIMIT

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Mistake #1: unnecessary words

"In every community, there are select individuals who emerge as pillars of strength, leadership, and unwavering dedication to their fellow citizens. In the city of Metropolis, one such individual stands out – Superman. It is with fervent conviction that I put forward his name for the Washington State Service Award, an accolade he not only deserves but embodies in every facet of his life."



Solution

Pay attention to what's being asked for in the nomination form and just go straight into what it's asking for.

Accomplishments over the last year *

From this point forward are the elements sections of the nomination statement. **NOTE: There is a 500-word limit in total for all elements combined. The application review committee will only consider the first 500 words. It is highly recommended to draft each element statement in a Word document to view the combined word count, then copy and paste in each section below.**

Accomplishments can be shown in a variety of ways. You can use one of the following for an example:

- a. Identify what was achieved; focus on results or stories/testimonials to show qualitative impact.
- b. Share how the nominee's effort has provided direct service.
- c. Describe any leadership contributions the nominee has made.

Impact *

The impact of volunteer service can be seen in many ways; describe how the nominee has impacted at least one of these:

1. Community
2. Organization
3. Individual



Mistake #2: "Telling" instead of showing

Here is an example of a "TELL":

"Superman has unequivocally **made volunteering part of his everyday life**. He **does not do it for accolades**. It's **simply part of who he is**. His **contributions to various organizations** across the city of Metropolis are **felt within the communities he touches**. Superman is an **amazing human being**. He is a **lovely person** to give back in this **supportive way**. One of the **amazing things** about Superman is his **kind and giving heart**."

Solution: **SHOW** us why someone is awesome through their actions!

In other words, be SPECIFIC. **SHOW**, don't tell.

"Superman thwarted a bank robbery, rescued two kittens who got stuck in a tree, used his super strength to fly and carry 500 pounds of food to the Metropolis Food Bank and volunteered at the Metropolis Hospital to read stories to all the patients in the children's ward."



Mistake 3: technical jargon and buzzwords



"Montgomery Scott is a highly-trained program manager for Enterprise Fire and Rescue (EFR), managing more than 30 Starfleet cadet volunteers for over 20 events requiring an estimated time requirement of 2,000 hours. He is a COML and COMT and runs the drone deployment program as a UAS pilot, a Zone 1 resource. He continues to work with EFR on all technical and high-octane radio needs and implementation of specialized repairs for emergency mitigation.

Solution: Use Plain Talk!

"As a volunteer lead for the Enterprise Fire Response and Communications program, Montgomery Scott trains more than 30 Starfleet cadets a year. He led the cadets at 20 events in 2024, where they collectively served more than 2,000 hours. His service helping repair ship communications in turn helped us prepare for a Klingon attack and save the lives of many crew members."

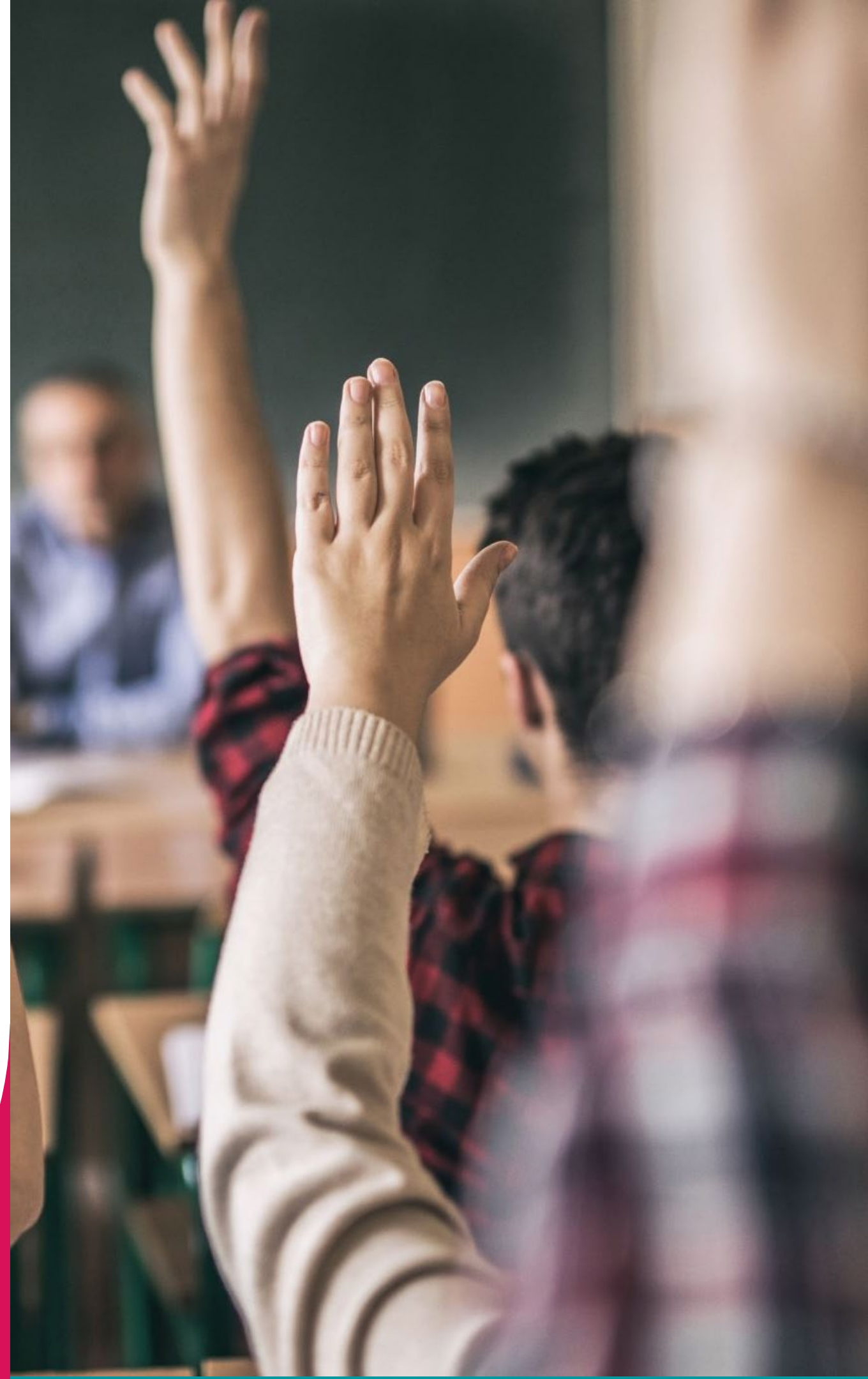
Tips:

- **Avoid Abbreviations and acronyms. NO ALPHABET SOUP! Use common terms that the average person would understand.**
- **Try to avoid "talking shop." If you have to talk about specialized role or something technical, pretend as if you are explaining it to a 5-year old.**
- **Read it to someone else to see if they understand.**



Community Reviewers

- Review Nominations from their region
- Meet as a team to review together
- Make selection
- Possibly support in awarding applicants



Contact us:
Servewa@ofm.wa.gov
360-902-0656

Questions
?

Thank you for joining us
today.

Your feedback will be
appreciated
click on the link in the chat

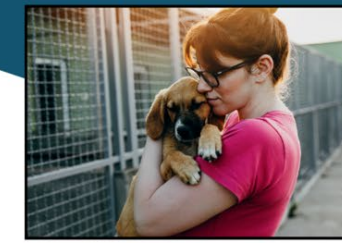
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NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR A



WASHINGTON STATE VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

PRESENTED BY **SERVE WASHINGTON**



Serve Washington wants to honor people who volunteered in 2024. We want to highlight the many acts of kindness they perform in communities across the state of Washington.

**Community helpers | Formal volunteering with an organization | National service
Neighbors helping neighbors | Groups | Individuals | Kids | Adults | Seniors**

**NOMINATIONS OPEN UNTIL
November 26, 2024**

Scan the QR code to submit your nomination.
Learn more about the awards and view nomination guidelines at
servewashington.wa.gov



*Technical Assistance: Have questions about the nomination form or process? Join us for an information session from **12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Oct. 15.***

No registration required. Use this link to join at the time of the session. <https://tinyurl.com/ytr6s7ap>.