



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
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## 2020 Governor’s Volunteer Service Award recipients announced

**OLYMPIA** – Serve Washington today announced recipients of the 2020 Governor’s Volunteer Service Awards. Ranging in age from 11 to 99, the recipients are being recognized for their outstanding commitment and achievements in volunteerism over the past year.

“Washingtonians across the state are making sacrifices for one another every day,” Gov. Jay Inslee said. “For that, I am deeply grateful and our state is stronger. Our Volunteer Service Award honorees are outstanding representatives of this kind of determination. It is an honor to recognize the tremendous contributions they have made to the communities they serve. I encourage all Washingtonians to thank a volunteer and to find a way to make a difference.”

An awards ceremony had been planned for this month at the Executive Mansion in Olympia, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic the ceremony had to be cancelled. Serve Washington hopes to reschedule the ceremony for later in the year. Instead, this year’s recipients will be highlighted throughout the week on Serve Washington’s Facebook and Twitter feeds to help showcase the countless acts of volunteer service performed by Washington citizens across the state every day.

“It is an honor to recognize the extraordinary volunteer efforts of these individuals, families and organizations,” said Amber Martin-Jahn, executive director of Serve Washington. “Their stories are a powerful reminder of the difference we can make through volunteering.”

### [See video message from Gov. Inslee thanking and congratulating this year’s award recipients](#)

The recipients, who were identified through a statewide nomination process and selected by a review committee, are listed below:

Category	Individual	Volunteer organization	City
AmeriCorps Alum	Ryan Robie	Washington Conservation Corps	Bellingham
AmeriCorps Member	Madelyn Merritt	Bellingham School District-Alderwood Elementary	Bellingham
AmeriCorps VISTA	Sarah McWilliams	United Way of Thurston County	Olympia
Animal Welfare	Paige Hamilton	Spokane County Regional Animal Protection Service (SCRAPS)	Spokane
Arts and Culture	Susan LaLone	Vancouver National Historic Reserve Trust	Vancouver

Disaster Preparedness & Response	Jon Bromberg	Eastside Fire & Rescue	Issaquah
Education	Tom Rogers	Youth Marine Foundation	Tacoma
Environment	Charles Schmid	Association of Bainbridge Communities	Bainbridge Island
Health Care	Muriel "Cookie" Auvinen	Seattle Children's Hospital	Edmonds
Human or Social Services	Norma Turner	Boys & Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula	Port Angeles
Public Safety	Rick Balam	Okanogan County Sheriff's Office	Okanogan
Senior Corps	Myra Clodius	Puget Sound Navy Museum	Bremerton
Teen	Josh Hechtman	ReProduce 81, A Food Recovery Nonprofit	Spokane
Veteran	Jack Taylor	VFW Post 2224	Puyallup
Youth	Anthony Hurtado	Statewide Poverty Action Network	Covington

Category	Group	Volunteer organization	City
Citizen Corps Program	Volunteers in Police Service	Bellevue Police Department	Bellevue
Community-Based Program/Org	Share	Clark County community	Vancouver
Employer-Based Program	F5 Networks	Food Lifeline	Seattle
Service Group	Disaster Preparedness Committee	Timber Ridge Continuing Care Retirement Community	Issaquah
Volunteer Family	Blaine & Cindy Zechenelly	Clallam County Fire District #3	Sequim

If you would like to volunteer in a safe manner during the COVID-19 pandemic or to learn more about volunteer opportunities in general, find your local volunteer center by visiting Serve Washington at < <https://servewashington.wa.gov/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities>> or 360-902-0656.

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Serve Washington advances national service, volunteerism and civic engagement to improve lives; expands opportunity to meet the local critical needs of residents of Washington; and strengthens community capacity while creating healthy and resilient communities. For more information, visit [servewashington.wa.gov](https://servewashington.wa.gov).