



SERVICE POINTS: A PRIMER

This guide explains how students and coaches can earn service points through the National Speech & Debate Association. The NSDA Honor Society recognizes middle school and high school students for participation in speech and debate activities. Member students are held to the six tenets of the Code of Honor, one of which is service.

SERVICE: A member exercises their talents to provide service to peers, community, and the activity. At all times a member is prepared to work constructively to improve the lives of others.

Students earn distinction through speech and debate competition, as well as community service, public speaking, and leadership activities. There are specific rules regarding service points, which are available starting on page 10 of the *High School Unified Manual*. Many coaches and students have questions about earning service points. Some of the most frequently asked questions are answered below:

► How do service points work?

If an advisor or coach with designated permissions deems an activity as eligible for service points, they may enter them as they would points for competition. Each approximate hour of activity should be treated as two points. Students can earn up to 20 service points per day. Points are entered in increments of one and fall under two categories, speaking (for an audience of 5+ adults) and non-speaking.

► How many service points can a student earn in a year?

Students may record up to 200 service points per year. Service activities can be recorded retroactively for the current and immediate past school years only.

▶ SERVICE STORIES



DON CRABTREE

Former NSDA Board of Directors President

Nine-Diamond Coach, Hall of Fame Member, and Service Citation Record Holder

"I think service is one of the single most important things we have to do—more than just coaching your own kids and worrying about your own team. When there are opportunities to present a workshop, or go to a conference, or help another coach who is starting a program, seize those chances. That service is how this organization grows stronger. And you gain so much from that as well."

► How does a coach enter service points for students on their roster?

Service points are entered using the same online system as merit points. Instead of selecting the debate or speech event, coaches should select Service, then enter a description of the service, add the number of points earned, select a coach, and then select what type of service has been done. When all fields have been entered, click Finish.

► What types of activities are eligible for service points?

Coaches have latitude to determine whether an activity should earn service points. Examples include:

1. Coaching middle or elementary school students for two hours prior to a tournament
2. Judging a round of middle school competition
3. Performing a speaking role in a play or musical
4. Participating in reader's theatre, one-act, or a choral reading group
5. Giving a speech at a political rally
6. Volunteering at a homeless shelter
7. Doing a demo debate for new students on the team
8. Recording an episode for a podcast

► What about coaches? Can coaches earn service points?

Yes! The NSDA recognizes the service of coaches with the Don Crabtree Distinguished Service Awards. This award is earned by coaches who perform service for the National Speech & Debate Association, such as hosting tournaments, serving on District Committees, volunteering at the National Tournament, or doing a variety of other eligible activities. Those who earn 20 citations are given a special gold key. Those who receive 50 citations are presented with a bronze plaque.

This process is digital and all citations can be recorded through a coach's online NSDA account! More information can be found under the Honor Society » Coach Recognition tab of the NSDA website. Visit www.speechanddebate.org/coach-recognition to learn more!

▶ SERVICE STORIES



ELENA CECIL

2018 National Student of the Year
Degree of Premier Distinction

At Larue County High School in Kentucky, the high school students coach the middle school speech team, something Elena thoroughly enjoyed. "It's different to be the coach or judge than the competitor. It gave me an idea of what judges are looking for when the roles are reversed. The students are so eager to get involved. Their excitement inspired me to keep improving my own skills."



DELANYA STOREY

2017 Exemplary Student Service Award Winner

Degree of Superior Distinction

"Service is about how you can make someone else's day better just by being being yourself and standing up for what you believe in. When you're helping others, you can never really underestimate your power as one person to make a difference."