



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 five 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 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, select a coach, and then select what type of service has been done. When all fields have been entered, click Finish.
- ▶ *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.
- ▶ *Can a high school student earn service points for judging?*
High school students may earn two points per novice or middle school round judged, with a limit of four rounds per day.
- ▶ *Can a high school student earn service points for coaching?*
High school students may earn two points per hour of coaching middle school practice sessions, which does not include tournaments. A maximum of 50 points per year may be recorded for coaching. Students may not earn points for coaching their fellow high school teammates.
- ▶ *Can a high school student earn service points for theatre performances?*
High school students may earn points for acting/theatrical performances and/ or theatre/festival competition. The student will earn five points for each performance of a play in front of an audience or in competition. They may earn a maximum of 20 points for any particular play or particular competitive readers theatre selection, one act team, ensemble, choral reading group, etc. However, mime and non-speaking roles may not earn points.

▶ 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.”

► *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



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."