

# American National Service by All

[Article 4 of the Nehemiah Articles]

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Dear Readers: This article utilizes content from three previous articles in a published series at [capitalism21.org](http://capitalism21.org), so some statements are condensed to keep this article brief. All aspects of this proposal are open for discussion.

The Five Realms of Power are Governance, Economics, Religion, Justice and Love. Their respective “currencies” for actions are votes, money, beliefs, laws, and service.

The realms of power are out of balance in America, with money exercising enormous influence over the other realms. The excessively disproportionate influence of money impacts our elections, compromises our elected representatives, warps our national budgets, alters the activities of religious groups, distorts our laws, and changes our views of service.

Greed, selfishness, and pride have led to the imbalance of power. One possible antidote is service, more service, and much more service.

The proposal is that SERVICE for the national wellbeing must be compulsory for everyone, according to laws to be enacted, with constitutional amendments if necessary.

There will be many variations of this service, according to the abilities of the citizens and the needs of our society. Implementation requires diligent work and attention to thousands of details. The presentation here focuses on the intended outcomes.

1. Service is by Americans of ALL ages and both genders, excluding only the very young, the very elderly, and the truly infirm.

A. School children in grades K – 12 would have activities to learn about service as well as to do service.

B. Young adults (ages 17 – 26) would have two years of service with a very wide range of options, as discussed below.

C. Adults (ages 27 – 54) would have special opportunities, many related to assisting other families and local communities.

D. Seniors (ages 55 – 80) would have “Honor Service” events, etc. appropriate for their circumstances.

2. Much (perhaps 25%) of the service will be for the implementation and guidance and quality control of the service of others. This results in high quality administration at rock bottom costs.

3. Much (perhaps 25%) of the service will be in the acquisition (learning) of valuable skills, essentially a form of volunteer interns who are becoming more employable while doing their service to the nation.

4. Service to the nation can have many forms, including military (combat), military (construction), Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, modernized Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC of the 1930s), and special programs that could be approved according to stringent requirements.

5. Citizens in selected employment fields of service with low pay (examples: social work, education, security, health care) can receive service credit by completing 6 or 8 years in those careers.

Specifics for the Young Adult Service Corps:

Every male and female American citizen (and possibly all resident aliens) between the ages of 18 and 26 years, will perform a total of 24 months (or perhaps more) of training and/or work in the authorized and supervised "American National Service Corps" programs. Allowances will be given for flexible time schedules to satisfy this requirement. These will be "sworn in" positions.

BASIC military training is required for at least 6 months. Non-combatant options (such as medics) will be available for conscientious objectors and for those with physical challenges. Numerous American military bases that are currently closed will be re-activated. Training will include instruction on citizenship, American freedoms and values, disaster response, and homeland security.

All branches of the US Military Services will be expanded, and will include Task Forces for Development (TFDs) such as for road building and environmental protection. Deployment of units will be as deemed appropriate for the wellbeing of the United States and its international relationships (with expected co-lateral advantages for willing, participating foreign nations).

Options in the greatly expanded Peace Corps, AmeriCorps and new initiatives will be available for some, on a competitive basis, who have completed university degrees or have high-demand skills prior to their service time.

To the extent possible, these service months will include at least 30 days overseas in less-affluent foreign environments.

Implementation issues:

A one-year age cohort in America has approximately 4 million persons. This means that approximately 8 million "full-time positions" will be created and be continually filled as young adults pass through their two years of national service. This is job creation at the national level with very low costs and high benefits to the nation and the individuals.

Exposure to military discipline will help build core values of work ethics and patriotism. America will also be better prepared for difficult times, whether from conflicts, natural disasters, or challenged neighborhoods in need of assistance.

For many who might otherwise face unemployment after high school graduation, the service years also provide opportunities for training (and "internships") in skills and trades that will lead to employment afterwards.

For many who complete college academic degrees, their service years will provide opportunities to use their skills, many in entry-level jobs (including business skills and production work) that are supportive of other service projects.

Because of the separation of church and state in America, two years of service as proselytizing missionaries would not be counted, but humanitarian service work with a church group could be counted, subject to rules and monitoring.

The net result is a stronger America. Further articles will provide more details.

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