

Involvement in Public Service and Civic Activities

So, you want to get involved in public service and civic activities -
but you don't know how to do it?

There is more than one way to get involved. From writing your Congressman to coordinating a voter registration drive to volunteering on a political campaign - there are hundreds of ways to get involved in issues and organizations that interest you. There is a distinct connection between local issues, governmental decisions, and civics - and your interest and enthusiasm for a particular issue can affect its outcome.

We have gathered suggestions from schools across Georgia about civic-oriented programs that have worked on their campuses, and we hope these ideas will provide you with ideas for your own campus and community.

Provide a shuttle service for students to use on Election Day to get to the polls. Make sure students know what time they will be picked up and brought back to campus, and if a majority of students come from a surrounding city, consider providing a shuttle that will take a large group to that location.

If you are an RA, focus on the importance of voting at one of your hall meetings.

Encourage your service group to work at the polls on Election Day. Donate all the money raised to your service group.

If you work at your college radio station, organize a debate on campus that is broadcast live and invite local candidates to come and debate issues that affect students. Afterwards, host a live remote outside the debate hall for students to voice their opinions on the issues.

Create a one-page flier advertising important election dates for students, such as the deadlines for absentee voting, and work with local pizza delivery companies to have the flier pasted on the tops of pizza boxes.

Contact your [local election office](#) as soon as possible and request that a precinct be placed on campus on Election Day.

Make [absentee ballots](#) available in the student center or cafeteria.

Create a college student voter's guide for November elections - provide factual information on candidates, constitutional amendments, and local issues that would affect a student's life.

Encourage existing student groups (Greek organizations, volunteer groups, etc.) to work together to get students registered and out to vote.

Invite candidates to campus to debate issues or discuss decisions they have made that affect local, state, or national laws.

Hold a [voter registration drive](#) during student orientation and provide freshmen with information regarding where to vote in November.

Adopt a high school and organize a group that will visit the school and encourage high school seniors to vote.

Organize a [voter registration drive](#) at football, soccer, basketball, or baseball games, funfairs, sorority or fraternity parties, the student center, the dining hall, a crosswalk where students pass between classes, a favorite spot where students buy school textbooks during drop/add, etc.

Volunteer with a local interest group that provides opportunities to work on an issue that you are passionate about.

Write to [your elected officials](#). Many legislators receive as few as 20 letters on a significant issue, and you can play a role in shaping your elected official's opinion.

Read your local newspaper and educate yourself on the issues that are prevalent in your community. Look for opportunities to get involved in community activities.

Encourage your friends and family to vote on Election Day.

Organize a [political discussion](#) on your college campus by inviting local officials and/or interest groups to speak about student issues, such as driving while talking on a cell phone, student loans, alcohol sales, transportation, or the Internet.

Write an article in your student or local newspaper about current events that affect you and your peers.

Start a radio talk show that focuses on current events that your fellow students may not be aware of and invite local elected officials to take part in the weekly program.

Organize a trip to the [State Capitol](#) during the General Assembly session (January, February, and March) for students at your university. Make appointments with Georgia [Representatives](#) and [Senators](#) that represent your college or university and update them on issues that are important to your student body. Be sure and plan some time to sit in on legislative debate during the morning.

Volunteer with a group that improves your local community, whether they pick-up highways, build homes for the underprivileged, or clean creeks and rivers.

Use the Web to read newspapers from around the world and learn about issues your peers are facing in other countries. Think about how their situation might affect you one day.

Contact your local election office and volunteer to work in a polling place on Election Day.

Apply for an internship with a federal, state, or local elected official. Learn firsthand how the government can affect your life – and how you can effect future decisions that are made by elected officials.

For Further Information log on to: www.georgiacounts.com or
Call: 404-656-7610