

Sample Nomination for the Governor's Service Awards

Each year, the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism accepts nominations for the Governor's Service Awards. The Governor's Service Awards recognize Marylanders who have provided significant volunteer contributions to communities around the state and have worked to change Maryland for the better. Information about nomination eligibility may be found at [our website](#). Nominations are due by 11:59 p.m. on June 7, 2019.

The information provided below is a sample only; it does not represent any actual person or organization (although several agencies mentioned are real). It is meant to illustrate several key qualities of a strong nomination. Note that the sample provides all requested information, it vividly describes the volunteer service activities and volunteers, and it provides specific accomplishments in 2018. The sample also provides a clear case for what is extraordinary about this group and why these volunteers should receive special recognition from the Governor's Office.

Good luck with your nomination!

Sample Nomination

1. Please provide information about you (the nominator).

Jane Smith

Charles County Food Sunday
78 Charles Street
La Plata, MD 20646
301-555-1234
jsmith@ccfs.org

What is your relationship to the nominee? Group Power Volunteer Project Partner

2. If the nominee is an individual, please provide first and last name.

3. If nominee is a group, please provide the full name of the group.

Group Power in Southern Maryland

4. Provide contact information for the nominee.

Contact Person for Group: Effie Bowers, Group Power Advisor
123 La Plata Drive
La Plata, MD 20646
301-555-5678
ebowers@gp.org

5. Where does the nominee volunteer?

Charles County, Calvert County, St. Mary's County

6. Please select the appropriate award category.

Group/Team

7. How long has the nominee volunteered?

10 years, 2 months

Nomination Narrative

Please answer each of the following questions in 1,000 characters or less. To ensure that your response is grammatically correct and within the character limit, the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism suggests that it be typed in a word document prior to pasting it here.

Narrative responses are encouraged to include strong writing, focus on the previous year of service (excluding the lifetime achievement award), and provide comprehensive quantitative data to support service efforts - such as the number of people served and number of hours volunteered.

8. Provide a brief summary about the nominee. Please include biographical information for individuals and organizational data for groups.

Created in 2009, Group Power (GP) is a service program that engages 40 individuals with special needs and who range in age, in intensive volunteerism and leadership development over a year-long program. To best meet local human and environmental needs in southern Maryland, GP partners with five nonprofits: Charles County Food Sunday, Southern Maryland Humane Society, Calvert Hospice, VFW Post 132's Homeless Veterans Outreach in Calvert County, and the Greenwell Foundation. GP volunteers work with therapy horses and children with disabilities, assemble food packages for low-income families, make and deliver emergency kits for homeless veterans, visit hospice patients, care for abandoned and abused animals, and provide presentations on the humane treatment of animals.

9. What motivated the nominee to volunteer/why was the group created?

GP was created to develop leadership through service. Each year, local community agencies identify individuals with special needs who are strong candidates for GP, and they are invited to participate in the program. These individuals, who have been stigmatized since they entered school because of their physical disability, dyslexia or other learning disability, or emotional problems, are supported by a dedicated team of eight adult volunteers and advisors during the one-year program. A key goal for GP is to provide these unique individuals with opportunities to shine – to be leaders and to be heroes. To foster this, GP provides weekly leadership circles and ongoing service projects. The leadership circles meet on Wednesdays and include lectures and activities that help the members identify their strengths and goals for the future, build communication skills, and reflect on the importance and power of volunteerism. Service projects occur on Saturdays at five community agencies throughout the year.

10. What were outcomes of the nominee's service in 2018 (or longer if a lifetime achievement nominee)? Provide quantitative data citing number of volunteer hours provided, number of people served, etc., that shows results of the volunteer service activities.

Group Power (GP) has engaged 150 volunteers and built a strong network of individuals with special needs who want to serve the community in southern Maryland. GP is a volunteer program; volunteers do not receive compensation or any other benefit for their volunteerism. In 2017, GP helped 50 children with disabilities, assembled food packages for 350 families, delivered 250 emergency kits to veterans, visited 25 hospice patients, cared for 75 animals, and gave 30 presentations on the humane treatment of animals to elementary students. Over the course of the year, the 40 members and the additional volunteers who participated in the program served over 300 hours.

11. What made this nominee's volunteer service extraordinary? Provide anecdotal information, such as stories and quotes to demonstrate the non-measurable impact of the nominee's volunteerism.

There are several reasons why GP's volunteer service is extraordinary: GP provides extraordinary service and demonstrates a high level of generosity in their work. They go above and beyond traditional volunteering in the scope of their service – they help senior citizens, veterans, abused animals, and more across southern Maryland. GP has a track record of meaningful results for the program's underserved members and the communities they served in 2017 and since the program's inception. GP makes a sustained commitment by volunteering each week over a one-year program. GP is a perfect fit with the Governor's Service Awards, since the leadership and strength these individuals embody represent the power all people possess to act selflessly and make Maryland a stronger and more compassionate state. Finally, GP has never received recognition of their program or volunteerism outside of its partner agencies.