

2025 VIRGINIA VOLUNTEERISM SUMMIT MAY 14-15



Call for Proposals Guidelines

Submission Deadline: Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 11:59pm ET

Submit your proposal here: <https://forms.office.com/g/tGCskJJYGx>

The 2025 Virginia Volunteerism Summit will be held virtually on the Airmeet platform, 9:00am-3:00pm ET on May 14-15, 2025. Expected attendance for the event is anticipated to be around 300 people from across the Commonwealth. The theme for the 2025 event is the **"Empowering Service, Elevating Impact: The SERVE Framework in Action."**

Informed by Virginia Community Engagement Index data, the SERVE Framework outlines five strategic focus areas, which will be the core tracks for the Summit:

1. **KEY SPACES:** Meeting people where they are—work, school, and faith communities
2. **EQUIP:** Equipping nonprofits with what they need to serve their communities
3. **CORPS:** Utilizing national service as a way to meet community needs
4. **VOICE:** Empowering nonprofits to advocate for their cause
5. **EXPERIENCE:** Ensuring that volunteers have a meaningful and impactful experience

Session Topics

Proposals that address additional topics will be considered; however, during the selection process **priority will be given to proposals that address the SERVE Framework (described above) and/or something from the below list of topics.** Regardless of the topic, all presentations should focus on providing practical tools and information that attendees can act on and implement in their own programs/organizations.

- Tools and best practices for volunteer recruitment and retention, including best practices for specific demographics like recruiting and managing youth volunteers
- Best practices for communicating the value of volunteerism
- Strategic planning and organizational development, including topics such as board member recruitment or managing a nonprofit board of directors
- Strategies to leverage volunteers in new ways to meet organizational and community needs, such as mobilizing volunteers in advocacy efforts
- Mental health and burnout in the nonprofit sector and among volunteers
- Implementing DEI best practices in volunteer programs or nonprofit organizations
- Effective practices and partnerships for employee volunteerism and engagement
- Pursuing a service-oriented profession, and how to talk about volunteer work/nonprofit experience as a valuable professional experience
- Cultivating effective and impactful community partnerships, and measuring impact

Target Audiences

- Volunteer managers and volunteer engagement professionals
- Nonprofit staff of all experience levels and board leadership
- Professionals engaged in CSR, philanthropy, and employee volunteerism
- AmeriCorps members, program staff, and alumni
- Undergraduate & graduate students with relevant studies in fields such as social work, public health, public administration, or other community-oriented disciplines
- Faith leaders and staff/volunteers from faith-based organizations

Participants who attend these sessions will have varied backgrounds. **Proposals that appeal to experienced and advanced professionals are strongly encouraged.** Proposals should specifically identify the target audience and level of experience:

- **Introductory (101):** People with less than two years of experience on this topic.
- **Experienced (201):** People with 2–5 years of experience on this topic.
- **Advanced (301):** Staff with more than 5 years of experience on this topic.
- **General Audience:** Mixed audience with various levels of experience.

Session Formats

All sessions will be presented in a virtual format during a 70-minute session. Presenters will use the provided virtual platform (Airmeeet) to present. Presenters should include hands-on components for participants to practice what they are learning: individual, small group, or large group activities; discussion; games; reflection; worksheets; panel discussion, etc. We encourage presenters to allow time for audience questions and answers.

About the Summit

The purpose of the Virginia Volunteerism Summit is to inspire and equip organizations and individuals to make a significant impact through service in and to their communities. **The 2025 Summit will engage stakeholders in powerful conversations to inspire action resulting in stronger civic and community engagement.** Participants will hear from inspiring speakers about the impact and future of volunteerism, as well as collaboratively engage in workshops to learn best practices, co-create new ideas, and engage in spreading passion and inspiration throughout the sector. Participants will be asked to consider how they **transform ideas into reality** as they use their skills to spark change around them.

FAQs

How will proposals be selected?

Proposals will be reviewed and selected based on the following criteria:

- Content, methodology, and relevance to the training purpose and outcomes
- Anticipated impact and defined outcomes for participants' skills and knowledge
- Presenter's training experience, skills, and style

When and how will I know if I have been selected?

Presenters will be notified by email in mid-February and will be required to submit presentation materials in advance of the event. Please do not register for the event until you have been notified, as presenters will be provided specific registration instructions.

What costs will be paid to me as a presenter?

There will be no monetary compensation for presented sessions. All presenters will receive a complimentary registration to the full event, and technical assistance in presenting during their session. **For questions about sponsorships, etc. please contact Kathy Spangler at Kathy.spangler@dss.virginia.gov.**

Contact

For questions related to this call for proposals, please contact **Sarah Lawson at sarah.lawson@dss.virginia.gov**. For additional information, visit: ServeVirginia.org/Summit