



# Service

Values Branch – Step 4

## Purpose

The 'Service' step provides a basic knowledge of what service is and its benefits to the giver and receiver. Upon completion of this step Trailmen should understand the importance of service to God and others.




1. What is service?
2. Why is it good to perform service?
3. Who can we perform service for? (Give examples and discuss what is considered community service for TLUSA)
4. Who does service benefit?
5. The Trailman Oath talks about "service to God." What does this mean?
6. Give several examples Jesus' actions or statements that showed or encouraged us to be servants

Notes to the Trail Guide //////////////////////////////////////

1. The goal is not for the boys to be experts at these topics, but to gain an increased knowledge and awareness of the Step.
2. Make it relative to your patrol.
3. Remember, these lessons should build from Fox to Hawk and from Hawk to Mountain Lion.
4. See the Leaders Guide for more information on Steps.

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## Skills Progression

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Basic understanding of service.</li><li>2. Give ideas of how to serve his family.</li></ol>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Understand service and why it's good to perform service.</li><li>2. Give ideas for how to serve the community.</li></ol>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Understand service to God and why Jesus calls Trailmen to serve.</li><li>2. Brainstorm ideas to do a service project for troop or charter organization.</li><li>3. Give examples of how Jesus served others.</li></ol>

# Helps

## 1. What is service?

- a. **Goal:** To seek to understand the meaning of service
- b. **Lesson:** Service is the action of helping or doing work for someone.
- c. **Examples:**
  - i. There are lots of different ways to serve, from very simple things you can do around the house to help your family to very elaborate projects that take lots of planning and volunteers.
  - ii. Serving others is one of the things that God commanded us to do. It is also one of the ways that we show others that we love and appreciate them. Our step is to focus on ways that we can serve others and can help meet their needs.

## 2. Why is it good to perform service?

- a. **Goal:** To learn reasons why it is good to perform service.
- b. **Lesson:** It is good to perform service because God asks us to and we can show God we are thankful to Him by our service.
- c. **Examples:**
  - i. **Ask Trailmen why they think it's good to perform service:**
    1. Providing for someone else who is in need, shows them God's love for them
    2. Builds teamwork with the group you are serving with
    3. Connects us to the people we are serving
  - ii. There is even research done that says those who volunteer a lot during the year have healthier bodies!
  - iii. God tells us to serve.
  - iv. Read 1 Samuel 12:24. God has done so much for us by providing for our families and taking care of our daily needs. Serving others is one way that we can show Him we are grateful.
  - v. Remind the Trailmen that, while they are small and perhaps limited in what they can do right now to serve others, each person should do what he can to serve. **Additionally, each person's task in serving is needed and valuable.**
- d. **Example Activities:**
  - i. Talk about the people who might benefit the most from your service. Could your mom use your help with dishes or laundry on a regular basis? Ask your dad if he needs help around your house. God has provided each of us with people that we see every day who could benefit from our service. Maybe your Troopmaster has a lot of things to carry out to his car after the meeting, ask him if you can help him with his items or find another parent with their hands full and serve them even after the meeting tonight! Ask if you can be responsible to put the flags away after the ceremony each week.

- ii. Think of ways you can serve in your community, such as decorating flower pots for a nursing home or to take to shut-ins from your church or Charter Organization. Decide which one of those you would like to do as a patrol and plan another day to make it happen!
  - iii. Make a service coupon book. Give each Trailman five strips of paper. Tell the boys to write one act of service on each sheet of paper. Examples include clearing the table, sweeping the floor, watering plants, feeding a pet, or other age-appropriate tasks. The Trailmen should then decorate each paper to go along with the action that they wrote on the paper. Staple all of the coupons together. Present it to a family member. If you have Foxes, you could pre-make a coupon book for them, allow them to decorate it. If it's around Mother's Day or Father's Day, use this as a gift for your parents.
3. Who can we perform service for? (Give examples and discuss what is considered community service for TLUSA)?
- a. **Goal:** To see the many opportunities we have to serve others, especially in the TLUSA program
  - b. **Lesson:** We can perform service for anyone outside of ourselves and TLUSA gives many opportunities.
  - c. **Examples:**
    - i. **We can perform service for anyone outside of ourselves.** One of the best displays of character is going beyond what is required of you to do your best. When you serve someone else, you are **putting that person's needs** above your own. It shows that you value that person for who he or she is, not what he or she has done for you.
    - ii. **Family and neighbors.** We can serve those immediately around us, like our family, even in our day-to-day activities. You can go next door and ask a neighbor if they need help with something around their house or yard. You **can serve in your church. Ask your pastor, children's minister or youth minister** how your gifts might best be used in your church.
    - iii. **Your troop.** We can also serve other people in our troop, particularly the Charter Organization your troop is a part of. In fact, all Trailmen are encouraged to do at least two hours of service for the Charter Organization each year. If our troop participates in a service project for the Charter Org in the month of January, our troop can earn a special "Attitude of Gratitude" ribbon to place on our flagpole. It's designed to help strengthen the relationship between the Charter Org and the troop.
    - iv. **Charter Organization.** Trail Life also has a "Trail Life USA Sunday" where Trailmen are encouraged to wear their uniforms to church, help serve or greet at the Charter Organization, or provide some other service on the last Sunday of June, celebrating Trail Life's Founding Day. This also is awarded with a ribbon from the Home Office when a troop completes the online form and send in pictures describing their event.

- v. **Community organizations.** There are organizations in need of service all over your city and state. Find a local food pantry or Meals on Wheels service and ask how they need help. Call the local Parks and Recreation office to find out what kind of projects need to be done at your local park. Call a **nursing home, especially around the holidays (doesn't have to be Christmas, maybe even Valentine's Day)** and ask if there is a way that their residents might benefit from Trailmen serving them.

d. Example Activities:

- i. Choose one thing that you could do for one of your family members this week. Make it a point to complete that item. Be ready to report on what you did at the next meeting.
- ii. There are many local organizations that serve your community. Have a representative from a service organization come to talk to the Trailmen about their group and the volunteer opportunities that they have. Ask that person to bring a small project for the boys to work on that night such as stuffing envelopes, shredding documents, sorting cans, etc.
- iii. If this is not feasible, select another group that has a service project that they boys can participate in, such as collecting food for a local food pantry or restocking church pews with sharpened pencils and offering envelopes or guest cards.
- iv. One of the organizations that Trail Life USA supports is Operation Christmas Child. Plan ahead by purchasing school supplies for steep discounts in August. Continue to collect several different types of items over September and October (personal hygiene items, small toys, deflated soccer balls and pumps and plastic shoe box sized items). Then in early November, have a Shoebox packing party. Be sure to donate the \$7 shipping if possible on <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ> and you will receive an email to know which country your boxes ended up! There are also a ton of planning resources available on this site in addition to videos and stories of the children who receive boxes. Be sure to show some of these to your Trailmen so that they can begin a personal connection with this ministry.
- v. **Mt. Lions seeking to earn the Timberline Award:** To show that he is courageously leading, a Mt. Lion must help plan and lead a service project in his community and enlist help from his fellow Trailmen to complete it. His service project must help to make his community cleaner, better, safer or meet a need. The project requires prior Trail Guide approval. **Service exclusively to a member of the Trailman's family is not eligible. For more information about the Timberline Award, available only to Mountain Lions, see the Trail Guide's Leader Guide.**
- vi. Brainstorm a service project your unit or troop could do for the Charter Organization. Troopmasters, or Trail Guides, make sure to make it happen!

4. Who does service benefit?

- a. **Goal:** To see that even though we are helping others in our service, we help ourselves.
- b. **Lesson:** While serving benefits other people, it also benefits ourselves.
- c. **Examples:**
  - i. What was one time that someone served you? How did their act of service make you feel?
  - ii. It seems a little obvious that when we decide to serve others, that *they* are receiving benefit. We are either cleaning up their yards, packaging food for the needy, or helping to clean up around the church. However, when we serve others you will be surprised at how much it benefits you!
  - iii. **It's a great feeling to help others and think of them first. Try it out! You will discover great joy in serving others if you do it with a humble heart.**
  - iv. Read Luke 6:38. This verse is much like the concept of "Pay it Forward," while the motivation for you to serve should be out of love for God and other people, you will notice that other people will see your good deed and at some time, you will likely experience someone serving you.
- d. **Example Activities:**
  - i. Broom Ball: Play a modified game of broom ball. Have brooms for each child (if you can get them). Cut paper towels or toilet paper tubes into 1" wide rings. Divide the Trailmen up into two teams. Give each player a broom. If you do not have enough brooms, you can switch out players. Just make sure that the number of players with a broom on each team is equal. Players use the brooms to sweep the paper towel rings into dustpans. They should try to prevent the team members from sweeping.
  - ii. Spend some time during your meeting walking around your Charter Organization's grounds and do a quick cleanup project. Check the parking lot, the ground on the street, particularly around the church's sign. Or if bad weather, find some cleaning supplies and an area that could use some tidying up inside the church.

## 5. The Trailman Oath talks about "service to God." What does this mean?

- a. **Goal:** To learn why "service to God" is part of the Trailman oath.
- b. **Lesson:** Servant Leadership is a Core Value of Trail Life USA. God commands us to serve him with all our heart.
- c. **Examples:**
  - i. Discussion:
  - ii. What does service to God mean to you? How do you serve God in your everyday life?
  - iii. What kind of special events do you do that also serves God?
  - iv. Why do we say we will serve God first, then our country? What if our country ever asked us to do anything against God?
  - v. Joshua 22:5
  - vi. What does it mean to serve God with all of your heart and soul?

vii. How do we hold fast to Him?

viii. Joshua 24:15

ix. **God's heart wants every part of us, which means that every part of our lives as well.**

x. **John Piper says that serving God means "to do what he says in a way that makes him look supremely valuable in himself. It means to submit to him in a way that makes him look thrilling." Our service to God is not because God needs us to serve Him. God is all-powerful, He can do His work without us, but He chooses us to be a part of His team, because it greatly benefits us and brings glory to His name!**

xi. Jesus commands his followers in Matthew 25:40 to love each other as he has **loved us and helps those who can't help themselves.** This is how we show others that Christ lives within us.

xii. **Psalm 100:2 also tells us to serve the Lord with gladness. Let's be sure that when we do serve others, do so without complaining and with grateful hearts to the best of our abilities.**

d. **Example Activities:**

i. **Watch the video "Do Something" by Matthew West and hear the story behind the song:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqX5wcFUV4I> (6:49 runtime). Talk about how old Andrea was when she made the decision to do something.

ii. Mt. Lions: As part of the Timberline Award, there are four Manhood **Principles and requirements. "To live boldly and avoid being passive, to live responsibly, to live courageously, to live for the greater rewards of God."**

1. **What does "passive" mean? (definition: accepting or allowing what happens or what others do, without active response or resistance.)**
2. **How does the song, "Do Something" by Matthew West, show you how to avoid being passive?**
3. **What is something that you could do to live out this truth in your life?**

6. Give several examples Jesus' actions or statements that showed or encouraged us to be servants?

a. **Goal:** To hear how Jesus demonstrated servant leadership and encourages us to be servants.

b. **Lesson:** Jesus performed many acts to serve other people and encourages us to do the same.

c. **Examples:**

i. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, even when He did not have to (John 13). **What was Peter's reaction? What do you think your reaction would have been? How can you show that you, too, have a servant's heart? What does Jesus tell His disciples to do after He washed their feet? John 13:14-15 & 17, Jesus says to wash one another's feet.** Some think that washing someone



else's feet is really just something Jesus did. But it was actually a job of the servants at the time. After long days of traveling, wearing shoes mostly like sandals and walking of dusty dirt roads instead of concrete, meant that **people's feet got very dirty**. Jesus humbled Himself to wash the feet of his disciples. He says that we will be blessed if we do them!

- ii. Read Mark 10:43-45. What does it mean for us to be slave of all? You see, Jesus could have come into this world and taken his rightful place as ruler of the world. He could have made himself a King and would have had success to conquer the world, making everyone his servants. But that is not how he lived his life on Earth. Instead he gave up his life. God chose a humble teenage girl to be his mother and a humble carpenter to be his father instead of a rich ruler. God chose a humble life of service to others and ultimately, he chose to give up his life so that we could have eternal life with God, our Heavenly Father.

d. **Example Activities:**

- i. Do a foot washing. Allow **the boys to wash each other's feet or the adults** could be the servant and do the washing if the boys are too embarrassed. Be sure to bring plenty of towels, a couple of basins and preferably use a non-carpeted room. Jesus promises us that we will be blessed if we do it.
- ii. **Hula Hoop Pass** - *Items needed: at least two hula hoops*. Divide the Trailmen into two or three large teams. Line the boys up and have them hold hands with their teammates. Put a hula hoop on the floor beside the first child. The object of the game is for each child to go through the hula hoop as it moves from the front of the line to the back of the line. The boys may not release their grip. If hands separate, the hula hoop must return to the front of the line and team must begin again. This first team to complete the relay is the one whose team members all go through the hoop the fastest without letting go. Options: Have them stand in a circle instead of a line. Make it a race between two groups, or pass two hula hoops in opposite directions. Discuss what it took to pass the hoop (leadership, cooperation, wisdom).

## Activity Ideas

- See the relevant patrol and branch section of the activities.
- Or, create your own activity relevant to your troop and region.
- Several ideas are listed above.

## Game Ideas

- Check the games section online for game ideas.
- Or, create a game that works for your patrol.
- A few of ideas laid out in the Helps section above or check out these below:



- **The Blob** - Play a normal game of tag, however, when "it" tags a Trailman, the Trailman becomes part of "it." Then the two of them must link arms and catch the next Trailman, who will join them. Last one caught by the Blob is the winner. This game can get out of hand, especially if the Blob decides to split off, but remind them to stay together so that they have to learn to work together, demonstrating cooperation and teamwork to accomplish the goal.
- **Over and Under** (good for Foxes) - Line up Foxes in a single file line. Give the first boy a small ball. He must pass it over his head to the next boy. That boy must pass the ball between his legs to the next boy. The idea is to pass the ball down the line, alternating over and under. See how fast they can go from front to back. Options: After trying Over and Under, tell the boys to pass the ball as fast as they can however they want from front to back. Or, choose other ball-related skills to try. Put them in a circle and have them pass the ball clockwise as fast as they can. **Whistle to signal or yell "Switch" for going the opposite direction.** Try several variations.

## Scripture

Joshua 22:5

1 Samuel 12:24

- Foxes – God asks us, in fact tells us to be very careful to keep the commandments, to serve Him faithfully.
- Hawks – God asks us, in fact tells us to be very careful to keep the commandments, to serve Him faithfully. Ask God in prayer how you can serve him in your family this week.
- Mt. Lions – God asks us to serve Him faithfully. Ask God in prayer how you can serve Him in your family and brainstorm with your patrol ways you can serve your troop or community.

Luke 6:38

- Foxes – When we serve others, we will see others give back to us.
- Hawks – When we serve others, we will see others give back to us. But what is our motivation for serving others?
- Mt. Lions – When we serve others, we will see others give back to us. If our motivation for serving others is to get what we want all of the time, do you think you will experience the same joy as you would if you serve God out of love for Him?

Matthew 23:11-12

- Foxes – **To be great in God's eyes, you must be a servant to others.**
- Hawks – **To be great in God's eyes, you must be a servant to others.**
- Mt. Lions – **Discuss the meanings of the words "humbled" and "exalted." What do you think this passage means? To be a servant of others means that we are not seeking after our own desires, but looking out for the needs of others.**

Philippians 2:6-11

- Foxes – Jesus made himself a servant and died on the cross for us.

- Hawks – Jesus made himself a servant and died on the cross for us.
- Mt. Lions – Jesus gave up his place on a heavenly throne to become a man—not of “kingly” status, but a servant. He died on the cross and God exalted Him to the highest place and the greatest name.

John 12:26

Matthew 23:11-12

Matthew 20:27-28 NIV

## Websites

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ>

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-does-it-mean-to-serve-god>

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