

HISTORY OF NATIONAL SERVICE WEEK

The article below first appeared in the September 1987 Service Hotline. Since then, the article has been updated to reflect our current National Service Week theme.

The purpose of National Service Week, and its predecessors, has been twofold: *To unite Brothers across the country through a common goal, and to increase awareness of Alpha Phi Omega to the general public.*

Through its incarnations as National Service Day with a National Service Project, it has been refined and broadened, to the National Programs of Emphasis, which allows greater flexibility while still retaining the sense of unity it provides. Additionally, by creating a national movement of sorts, Chapters are encouraged to get other organizations to participate. This not only serves the purpose of promoting service, it also introduces Alpha Phi Omega to other groups that could serve as useful partners in a common goal of helping others.

National Service Week is always the first full week of November, beginning on a Sunday. The date was chosen because it accommodates those schools that operate on a quarter system, and gives Chapters a chance to promote themselves in time for spring rush. Chapters are encouraged to complete their projects during this timeframe, but it is understood that for some Chapters this week is not convenient. You should still participate in NSW, even if your project falls outside of the suggested timeframe.

2009 & 2010 mark the 14th and 15th years of this effort being a full week. However, these are our 31st and 32nd consecutive annual national fall service events—wow! The 2009 & 2010 themes are designed so Chapters can make a difference in their communities. We're counting on you to participate this year, and to let us know what you did and how it went.

The delegates at the APO Convention in 1948 approved the rebuilding of the Scout Hut at Hallows Church in London, England after World War II as a "national service project" for APO. This was one of many national service efforts within APO before National Service Day/Week was established.

NATIONAL PROGRAMS OF EMPHASIS

- 1979-1980 Youth
- 1981-1982 Handicapped & the Aged
- 1983-1984 Service through Youth Organizations
- 1985-1986 Service to our Nation's Health
- 1987-1988 Service to Scouting
- 1989-1990 Take Pride in America
- 1991-1992 Education: The Big Payoff
- 1993-1994 Health Education and Awareness
- 1995-1996 The Environment
- 1997-1998 Combating Violence and Poverty
- 1999-2000 Bridging the Centuries
- 2001-2002 Forging into the Next Millennium by Providing Service to the Fraternity, Campus, Community and Nation
- 2003-2004 Building a Sound Mind and Body
- 2005-2006 Building Safer Homes & Stronger Communities
- 2007-2008 Lending a Helping Hand: Serving Individuals with Disabilities
- 2009 - 2010 Blue & Gold Go Green: Environmentalism



NATIONAL SERVICE DAY/WEEK THEMES

- 1987 Diabetes & Other Chronic Illnesses, in honor of Brother Berkeley Duncan, past National Vice President. *1987 was the first year that National Service Day had a specific theme.*
- 1988 Physically Challenged, Mentally Retarded and Developmentally Disabled
- 1989 Environmental Awareness
- 1990 War on Poverty
- 1991 Literacy



- 1992 Career Awareness
- 1993 AIDS/HIV Disease Education & Awareness
- 1994 Chemical Dependency & Eating Disorder Awareness
- 1995 Recycling/Green Projects
- 1996 Natural Disaster Preparedness & Personal Safety
- 1997 Hunger and Homelessness. *1997 was the first National Service Week.*

- 1998 Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- 1999 Service to the Leaders of the Twentieth Century
- 2000 Nurturing the Leaders of the Twenty first Century
- 2001 Shaping our Fraternity and
Campus Environment for the
Future
- 2002 Utilizing our Resources to Build a
Stronger Community and Nation
- 2003 Building a Sound Mind
- 2004 Building a Sound Body
- 2005 Making Safer Homes
- 2006 Building Stronger Communities
- 2007 Serving Children with Disabilities
- 2008 Serving Adults with Disabilities
- 2009 The Fifth Field of Service: Service to the Earth
- 2010 Get the Green Out: Making Communities Greener

