



St John Volunteer Corps (SJVC): Frequently Asked Questions

“To utilize the talents and commitment of our Confrères in providing a wide range of volunteer services supporting organizations serving the sick and the poor in accordance with the overall mission of the Priory in the United States of the Order of St John.”

Confrères are encouraged to seek out opportunities to serve with the St John Volunteer Corps (SJVC). Participation is a great way to create connections with your fellow Confrères and between regions. Your SJVC service will create opportunities for building meaningful relationships and a greater understanding of our Order as well as discovering ways to get more involved in the Order itself. Your contributions will be a visible demonstration of living up to our motto, *Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum* (For the Faith and in the Service of Humanity).

Why is participating in SJVC initiatives important?

- Serving our Lords the sick and the poor is a commitment of being a Confrère and provides “hands on” services to the vulnerable in your local community.
- SJVC offers a tangible connection to our fiscal support of the St John Eye Hospital Group in Jerusalem.
- Confrères can serve as ambassadors representing the worldwide Order and our U.S. Priory.
- Participation supports consideration for promotions in grade.

Where can I find details on the SJVC?

The U.S. Priory website has a Volunteer Corps section on the Member Dashboard - log in for complete information as well as access to the SJVC 2021 Handbook.

How does one participate with the SJVC?

Contact your Regional SJVC Chair and register your interest. There is no minimum or maximum number of service hours as a requirement for participation in the Corps; all voluntary service is appreciated! Note that when volunteering within and in partnership with other organizations, it is essential that you follow the rules and protocols of that organization. It is each participant’s responsibility to ensure that volunteer hours are reported (see section 8 of the Handbook.)

What are some of the ways the SJVC engages with communities?

Organizations that provide SJVC opportunities include the following examples:

Veterans Organizations

- VA Medical Centers, extensive non-medical volunteer activities.
- Fisher Houses, serving meals, providing fellowship and assisting with local events with veteran's families
- State Veterans Homes
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
- American Corporate Partners Mentoring Program which connects post-9/11 veterans (Protégés) with corporate professionals (Mentors) for customized mentorships.
- National Veterans Legal Support Programs

Non-Veteran, mission-compatible organizations in the community:

- Medical Reserve Corps
- American Red Cross
- Salvation Army

Vision-related organizations and charities such as the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Alliance Orders and their volunteer programs. Volunteering alongside our brothers and sisters in the Sovereign Order of Malta and the Johanniterorden of Germany can now be considered for approval as SJVC service.

Contact your Regional Chair for information on approved local activities. All volunteer activities must first be approved by the SJVC Committee in order to receive credit for volunteer hours worked. Confrères wishing to propose new activities should contact their Regional Chair, for advise and guidance on the necessary procedure.

How can I serve with the SJVC during Covid-19 or if I reside in a region that does not have geographical concentrations?

Reach out to veteran shut-ins and elderly - If you are approved to volunteer at veteran care homes, such as Sitter & Barfoot, send cards or telephone residents who are isolated during the pandemic.

Get first aid training - All members are encouraged to consider becoming certified in first aid through the Red Cross, not for the purpose of seeking people to rescue or creating an independent first aid service, but simply to have the basic skills that would enable each of us to help in an emergency situation at home or in the community.

Create eye care connections - Support people with eye health conditions by connecting with organizations that coordinate support for the visually impaired.

Helping those in need - Assist soup kitchens and food bank programs and other services that support the vulnerable and the homeless. Check with your Regional SJVC Chair on how these volunteer hours would qualify.

How do volunteer hours get reported?

Since participation in approved activities counts towards annual totals for consideration for promotion and awards, it is critical that Confrères report their hours through their Regional SJVC Chair, who will report totals for their region quarterly. Ensuring hours are properly recorded is the responsibility of the individual at the regional level.