

Soldiers, Scouts, Students: Starter Guide

Honoring the Past. Inspiring the Future.



The Mission & Vision

Soldiers, Scouts, Students is a grassroots national service framework that unites communities through **service, education, storytelling, and historical preservation**.

Our mission is simple yet powerful:

To honor veterans, preserve local history, and **bring people together across generations** through acts of community-driven service.

It began in central Massachusetts — where students, veterans, Scouts, and neighbors came together to **restore forgotten monuments** and digitize stories for future generations. What started as a local idea has grown into a model any community can replicate — **one story, one square, one Scout at a time**.



How to Start One in Your Town

You don't need a committee or a budget to begin. Every Soldiers, Scouts, Students project starts with one simple act of service.

1 Start Small.

Begin with one monument, one story, or one student group. Photograph it, record what you know, and share it online. Small efforts build lasting impact.

2 Partner Locally.

Connect with your local **American Legion or VFW post, Scout troop, school, or library.** Each group brings unique strengths and stories to share — and together, they form lasting community bonds. Use existing and trusted non profit organizations for any fundraising efforts i.e. your local American Legion.

3 Digitize History.

Upload photos and descriptions to public archives like the **Historical Marker Database (hmdb.org)**. Add a **QR code** linking directly to that story so visitors — and future generations — can access it instantly.

4 Share & Inspire.

Post your results on social media. Tag them with **#SoldiersScoutsStudents** so others can learn from and celebrate your work.

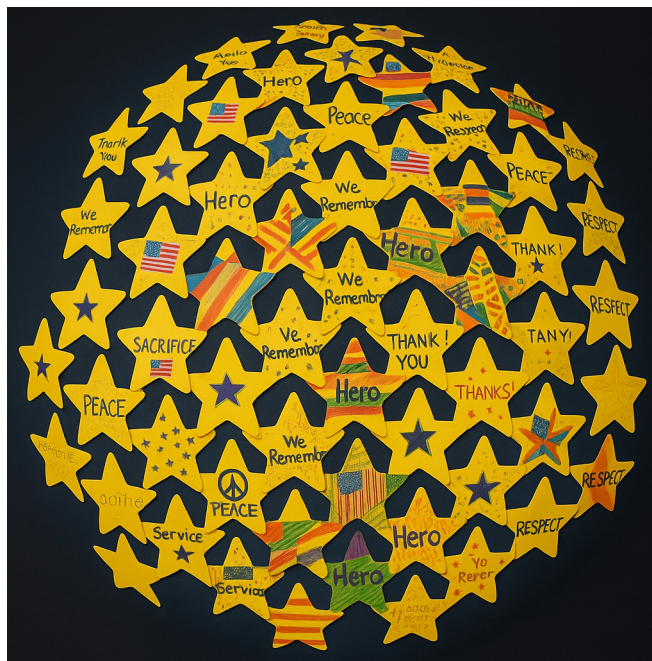


Partnerships & Programs

Soldiers, Scouts, Students works *within existing frameworks* — not as a new organization, but as a **template that strengthens programs already serving our communities.**

It fits naturally into:

- **Scouting America / Boy Scouts of America** – service hours, merit badges, Eagle Scout leadership projects. Existing 100 year old partnership between the American Legion and BSA for joint projects
- **Girl Scouts of the USA** – community service and **Silver Award** or Gold Award projects
- **American Legion Youth Programs** – veteran mentorship, leadership, and civic pride
- **Junior ROTC & National Honor Society** – leadership development and community engagement
- **High Schools & Student Councils** – opportunities for **community-service hours and experiential learning credit, and college résumé enrichment through meaningful local service**



These collaborations bring generations together — veterans, educators, and young leaders — united in shared respect for service, history, and community.

When to Begin

Soldiers, Scouts, Students is designed to align with **existing community events and patriotic observances**, making it easy for schools, Scouts, and towns to integrate.

- **Veterans Day** – A time for reflection, research, and planning new projects
- **Memorial Day** – A day of action, rededication, and celebration of completed work

Each year, these moments can spark new projects — clean-ups, digital uploads, QR installations, student research presentations or inspired craft projects for younger students.



Why This Matters

Monuments are more than stone — they are the collective memory of our communities. Yet many have faded or been forgotten.

Soldiers, Scouts, Students helps:

- Restore dignity to local memorials
- Make history accessible online
- **Unite people** across generations, organizations and political beliefs.

“To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child.”

For what is the worth of human life, unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?”

— *Marcus Tullius Cicero*



How It Spreads

This framework is **intentionally simple and scalable**.

One person can document a monument in under an hour. From there, local organizations can build larger initiatives:

- **Fundraising:** Work with small businesses and civic groups for low-cost sign or QR replacements.
- **Education:** Pair students with veterans for oral histories or class presentations.
- **Community:** Encourage towns to “adopt” their squares or markers for annual maintenance.



From faded to renewed — a town united to honor its heroes and keep their stories alive.

Example: Proof of Concept

In Leicester, Massachusetts, American Legion members, Scouts, small businesses and local volunteers replaced 19 Gold Star markers and digitized the biographies behind them.

Nearby in Spencer, a single QR code connected a 9/11 memorial to the **National September 11th Museum Archive video** — linking global history to a local story.

Each example shows how **grassroots leadership and community collaboration** can inspire national impact.

Get Connected

Visit the website or join the online community to share ideas and celebrate projects nationwide:

 soldierscoutsstudents.org

 [Facebook Page :](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/SoldiersScoutsStudents>

 [Facebook Group :](#)

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1041656384336715/?ref=profile_plus_visit_group

Closing Thought

“This is just the start — together, we can honor the past while shaping a future that inspires generations to come.”

— *Phillip D. Olivo*

Eagle Scout, Scout Dad, and Founder of Soldiers, Scouts, Students