

LETTERS TO SERVICE MEMBERS

It is important for children to build their social awareness by understanding their community. One aspect of this is recognizing the various jobs that exist to serve the community. These jobs could be on a local level or even a national level and can look very different from each other. Some jobs many children don't even think about when it comes to recognizing their service. This is an activity that can be utilized to discuss all of these jobs, like being a firefighter, cop, nurse, garbage collector, military service member etc. Children can then learn how to recognize and appreciate these service members through writing a "Thank You" letter.

In-person: Begin by discussing with the group what jobs they think of when it comes to those who serve their community. Discuss how these jobs help their community and why it's important that those jobs exist. Continue to discuss why it is important that members of the community recognize and thank these workers for their service to the community. Have the Littles and Bigs break off into their matches to co-write a thank you letter to a service member. Instruct them to pick a general area of service (not a specific person) and write a "Thank You" letter explaining why they are writing and why they are thankful for their service. Letters can then be collected and distributed to locations by staff.

Virtual: Instruct the matches to discuss the above and who they would like to pick to write a letter to. Depending on the age of the child, the Little could say what they want to include in the letter while the Big or PG writes it out for them. The letter could then be emailed or mailed to BBBS staff to be distributed among the community. Another option would be offering the younger children to draw a picture instead of writing a letter and having them mail it in or get picked up by BBBS staff.