

Service Warriors FAQ

What is the Service Warrior program?

The Service Warrior program is a one year community service and leadership development program for youth with disabilities ages 16-23.

What are some examples of community service projects that Service Warriors do?

Service projects do change from year to year, however, some examples of projects include: cleaning parks, painting schools, preparing meals for those in need, painting murals, and community farming.

What do Service Warriors do in addition to community service?

Warriors also participate in a minimum of 10 Leadership Development Days throughout their Warrior year. LDDs are half to full day interactive trainings on topics such as public speaking, team building, disability history, goal setting, financial literacy, utilizing the arts in your leadership, political literacy, and resume building.

What kinds of disabilities does your program serve?

We serve all youth with all forms of disability. In building each Service Warrior Team EPIC staff strives to create a team that is a reflection of the diversity of the disability community and that includes disability type.

What age do I have to be to be a Warrior?

Service Warriors must be between the ages of 16-23 when the program begins in April.

Do I have to have job/volunteer experience to be eligible?

Nope! Service Warriors are a diverse group coming from all backgrounds and experiences. Although the application does ask for employment and volunteer experience this is not a prerequisite for the program, it is just a way for EPIC staff to get a full picture of each applicant.

What is the application process to become a Warrior?

There are four steps to apply to become an EPIC Service Warrior: First, go to www.epicleaders.org and go to the Service Warrior page for the city that you want to apply to (Boston or Worcester). Then click the Apply button to fill out the online application. Once you submit your online application you will receive a confirmation email with a blank recommendation form that will need to be completed. After the application deadline, EPIC staff will reach out to you in the beginning of February to schedule an interview. You will hear back from EPIC staff at the end of February/beginning of March to let you know if you have been accepted into the program. If accepted you will need to let staff know if you are accepting your position. Easy as 1, 2, 3, 4!



Who can I have write my letter of recommendation?

A teacher, employer, or other community leader must write your letter of recommendation. They cannot be a personal friend or family member.

Are there any costs or fees for the program?

There is a one-time program fee of \$250.

What does the fee cover?

The \$250 one time fee will provide each Service Warrior with uniforms, meals at each service projects/events, the EPIC Service Warriors Handbook and reasonable accommodations to ensure everyone can fully participate.

Do you have scholarships or fee waivers?

Yes, EPIC offers scholarships at all levels. EPIC has never turned an applicant down for a scholarship. Please do not let the program fee deter you from applying for the program. If a full or partial scholarship is needed EPIC staff will provide all the information needed to request one once an applicant has been accepted into the program.

Can I bring my own Personal Care Attendant (PCA)?

Yes! EPIC will provide a PCA for those in need of one, but you are welcome to use your own.

How many staff are present during Service Warrior days?

The EPIC team has a dedicated group of program staff, personal care attendants, and adult volunteers that attend and participate in Service Warrior programming throughout the year. The ratio of EPIC staff/adults to youth leaders changes every year in response to the various needs of the EPIC youth.

Where do Service Warrior events take place?

Service Warrior events take place in a variety of different locations throughout the city in which you are serving, Boston or Worcester. We strive to meet in different communities each time Service Warriors meet in order to build Warriors access and knowledge of the various communities of their city.

Do you provide transportation?

We do not provide transportation to all events. We try to ensure that all events are accessible by public transportation and if they are not EPIC staff will work with Warriors to assist them in coming up with a transportation plan.

Do participants receive a stipend?

Participants do not receive a stipend. However, once involved with EPIC there are extra paid opportunities outside of the Service Warrior program that youth can take advantage of such as becoming an EPIC Youth Trainer.

What kinds of things are you looking for in the interview process?

This is an opportunity for EPIC staff to get to know applicants. We want to learn more about you and why you are interested in being a Warrior. Interviews generally last about 45 minutes and every applicant will interview with 2 EPIC staff and another EPIC youth. We encourage applicants to think about why you want to be a warrior, what will make you a good warrior and any questions you have for us.

Are there requirements to successfully graduate from the Service Warrior program?

Yes, EPIC Service Warriors are expected to complete all 5 of the following items to successfully graduate from Service Warriors.

1. Must complete a minimum of 110 Service Warrior hours

The Service Warrior year has more than 110 hours of programming scheduled. Warriors with exemplary attendance will exceed this requirement.

2. Service Warriors must be registered or pre-registered to vote

At EPIC's Political Literacy day, each Service Warrior present will have the opportunity to register or pre-register to vote.

3. Must have a professional email

EPIC staff has Leadership Development Days where Service Warriors will have the opportunity to complete and improve these items with the help of EPIC staff and peers.

4. Have a complete and updated resume

EPIC staff has Leadership Development Days where Service Warriors will have the opportunity to complete and improve these items with the help of EPIC staff and peers.

5. Fill your jacket

Service Warriors are expected to help in the recruitment of the next team of Service Warriors or to "fill their jacket".