



THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE

Values Cards

The American Revolution was fueled not just on battlefields and in legislatures, but also around tables, taverns, and church halls where ideas were shared and solidarity was built.

Timed with America's 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and inspired by **THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION** from Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt, this resource is designed to help communities celebrate together, explore themes of service, and reflect on the founding ideals of our nation.

The Declaration of Independence closes with a powerful commitment: "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor." This pledge reminds us that even people of different backgrounds can unite around shared values—a spirit that continues to guide us in building common purpose today.

Values cards are one way to bring this spirit to life. Simple yet powerful, they invite us to reflect on what matters most and imagine how to put our values into action. Each card names a value and offers a short definition, creating opportunities to pause, connect, and be inspired.

Designed for people of all ages, the cards spark meaningful conversations, deepen understanding, and help us find common ground. Participants can choose cards that represent their personal values, explore how those values appear in their lives or in history, and even add their own using the blank cards provided. By focusing on the ideals that shaped our past and the values that guide us today, the cards encourage us to better understand one another, discover shared motivations for service, and honor the past while building a more inclusive and connected future together.

There are many ways to use these cards. Here are seven ideas:

1. **Connect and Share:** Invite participants to each choose a value card that matters most to them and share why with a partner or small group.
2. **Founders and Values Match:** Link values to people involved in The American Revolution. Which values might have guided their actions?
3. **Story of a Value:** Participants write, tell, draw, or paint a short story from their life that connects to a chosen value.
4. **Create Your Own:** Encourage guests to write in a value that's missing and explain what it means to them.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

A FILM BY KEN BURNS, SARAH BOTSTEIN & DAVID SCHMIDT



ENGAGEMENT RESOURCE CENTER
pbs.org/americanrevolution/resources



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5. **Values Wall:** Set up a wall or board where participants can post their selected values for all to see and reflect on community patterns.
6. **Action Challenge:** In groups, select three shared values and design a quick idea for a service project that brings those values to life.
7. **Legacy Letters:** Ask participants to write a short note to a future generation, explaining a value they hope will shape the nation's next 250 years.

Print two-sided, flip on long edge.

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— A FILM BY KEN BURNS, SARAH BOTSTEIN & DAVID SCHMIDT —

VALUES

NATIONAL MUSEUM
AND CENTER FOR
SERVICE

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JUSTICE

Taking action for what is right
or fair according to one's values

LOVE

Deep care and connectedness
inspiring positive action

LOYALTY

Dedication and commitment
through good times and bad

OPEN- MINDEDNESS

Generously considering
new ideas and perspectives

PURPOSE

Knowing what matters and
living in a way that reflects it

REASON

Seeking the truth by applying
logic and thinking critically

SECURITY

Safety, protection
from harm and need

SERVICE

Contributing to the wellbeing of
others for no personal gain

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BALANCE

Harmony or moderation

COURAGE

The mental or moral strength to face
difficulty or danger

CREATIVITY

Using imagination to make something
new or solve problems

CURIOSITY

Wanting to learn about, explore,
and understand the world

DIGNITY

Believing all people should be
valued and respected

EMPATHY

Seeking to understand what someone
is thinking and feeling

EXCELLENCE

Commitment to greatness

FAITH

Trust and conviction that guide action

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FAMILY

Supporting and prioritizing
loved ones or kin

GRATITUDE

Noticing and appreciating
good things, big and small

GROWTH

Intentional improvement

HARD WORK

Consistent effort,
dedication

HOPE

Believing something good is possible,
even in difficult times

HUMOR

Finding amusement in life
and sharing it with others

INTEGRITY

Doing the right thing
even when no one is watching

JOY

A deep sense of happiness
and wellbeing

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