



917 Society Delivery Volunteer Training

(This document goes along with the videos found on the [Delivery Volunteer Frequently asked questions page](#) although if you don't have time to watch all the videos, this will cover most of the key points covered by Joni Bryan, the 917 Society Director)

Video #1- What's the first step in becoming a delivery volunteer?

1. Please fill out the form for delivering to 8th graders in the US on the Order Constitutions tab of our website (<http://917society.org/deliveryvolunteerorderform>). That lets us know your interest and to what area of the country you want to deliver. You can start as small as your child's school or, if you have the volunteers to do it, as big as a county or more. We allow you to define the size of your commitment by school, city, school district or county. Note: This year we ask on the form for 8th graders how many pocket Constitutions you have left. We understand sometimes schools did not accept the Constitutions. Please help us use donor funds wisely. If you ordered from us last year, let us just replenish what you need for the coming year. We will send you an updated spreadsheet of your area of commitment and subtract the number you have left from last year from the total we estimate you'll need this year.
2. If you notice we are missing schools, either private or public, that teach 8th graders, we would be glad to add and track them for the future. Just send us a URL to the school's website and we'll add it to your spreadsheet and have it going forward for you in future years. The spreadsheet will contain at least the following information: School name and address, general telephone number, approximate number of 8th graders at the school. If we can get it, we'll include the principal's name so you can call them for more exact numbers of 8th graders.
3. There are two forms this year. One is for those wanting to donate to cover the cost of printing and mailing of our Constitutions for events that are not aimed at 8th graders in a public or private school or home school. If you are a teacher of 8th graders or someone who will distribute them to 8th graders (or occasionally 7th graders, if that is when civics

is taught), please use the form for 8th graders

<https://www.917society.org/deliveryvolunteerorderform>.

4. In some states, civics and the Constitution are taught in 7th grade. We will accommodate whichever grade: 7th or 8th that teaches this subject, but only one of those grades per school.
5. On each January 1st, we start signing up volunteers for the coming year. Almost all schools in areas of the country are on a first come, first serve basis since volunteers might decide not to deliver in the following year. So, if you want a certain area or private, public or both, please sign up early.
6. We only assign one volunteer per school. This is an honor commitment. We have faith that you will deliver to all schools you sign up to deliver to, with the knowledge that if you don't, no one else will. This also helps us avoid duplication of deliveries to a school when there are several good-hearted, patriotic people and groups who ask for the same delivery area.
7. As mentioned above, we also have [a second form for cases where you are ordering Constitutions for something other than 8th graders](#) in public, private or home schools. Perhaps you need them for a public facing event for adults or a different grade than for what our donors give us money. We can sometimes accommodate your request if we have some left over. We send these out for a break-even donation. \$40 for 100, \$75 for 200 or \$150 for a box of 400. This includes shipping.

Video #2- Before finalizing your order with the 917 Society or “Overcoming objections”:

Sometimes it's a good idea to talk to the district school supervisor or the principal of the school for your area to see if the donation will be accepted. We have prepared a few useful facts to help facilitate this discussion and overcome concerns some district supervisors have.

Use the following to help overcome objections if there are any:

1. The 917 Society is not political. We are an educational 501(C)3 charity.
2. Schools that get funds from the federal government are required to teach about the Constitution. See: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/guid/constitutionday.html>. “Each educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year is required to hold an educational program about the U.S. Constitution for its students on September 17 (if it falls on a weekend; it should be held in the previous or next week).”
3. The 917 Society is simply named for the date when the Constitution was signed.
A bit of history: On September 17, 1787, 39 of the 55 delegates signed the new document, with many of those who refused to sign objecting to the lack of a bill of rights.

When did the Constitution go into effect?

The Constitution did not go into effect the moment it was signed by the delegates. It needed to be approved by the people through the ratification process. Article VII of the Constitution established the process for ratification, by simply stating that. “The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.” On June 21, 1788, New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify; and the Confederation Congress established

March 4, 1789, as the date to begin operating a new government under the Constitution.

4. The 917 Society earned the Guidestar Platinum seal of Transparency in 2024 and for at least the last 5 years in a row. The GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency is important as it represents the highest level of recognition for nonprofits, showcasing their impact and progress effectively. <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/46-3090292>
5. We don't advertise on the Constitutions. The only mention of religion is what is in the original Constitution itself. Lots of us have different religions, some have none. We are not exclusionary nor is the Constitution. You have God given rights whether you believe in God or not and no matter who your God is. If your rights come from man, they can be taken away by man. That's the simplest way to put it.
6. The goal is to get them to the schools for Constitution week, but anytime of the year is good. Please keep trying if unsuccessful by September 17th. Don't give up. It's too important. We believe in you and your team and will try to help.

Video #3- Overcoming Objections-(Continued)

7. If you are with a volunteer group that is considered political and feel that might be an issue with the schools, try donating as a parent or community member. It's our goal to leave politics out of educating 8th graders on the Constitution.
8. The QR code on the back of the pocket Constitutions goes to <https://e-book.to/The-US-Constitution> and that link does not ask for donations. There is a link to "About the 917 Society" which has links to our website, how to become a volunteer and how to become a Partner. Our goal is to have schools teach the Constitution to 8th graders.
9. You can send the district school supervisor or principals [a watermarked copy of the 917 Society Constitution](#) we distribute so they can see what we are distributing before they get it. We are trying to be an open book and our goal is to teach students about our form of government.
10. The district superintendent is also welcome to speak to Joni Bryan, our Director, about the Constitution, if that might help. Her number is: 256-668-5590
11. What to do if the Constitutions are rejected because- they are considered politically right-leaning: When several groups had trouble with the schools or district supervisor rejecting large donations, they were able to successfully get the media involved. Public schools should know that to not teach about the Constitution might jeopardize their funding. This mandate has been in existence since 2004 and gone through both Republican and Democrat presidents in the White House.

The donation of Constitutions was initially refused after verbally being accepted by a couple of volunteer groups. Getting the news media involved worked both in the Mecklenburg school district in NC where a school district refused what we sent after we sent it. Note: we sent the volunteer for that area over 13,000. The school district leaders changed their minds once the media started calling them asking about their decision.

<https://portal.momsforliberty.org/videos/wcpss-nc-parents-bill-of-rights/>

Using the news media also worked for volunteers trying to deliver Constitutions to a school district north of Austin, TX

Martha can send you the article on how a volunteer group was successful in Texas; “TX school district reverses course.pdf” by the Epoch Times, if you can’t access the Epoch Times website.

Harford County Public Schools in MD was also a difficult situation. They received 3000 for their county from a volunteer, but the school district refused to give out to 8th graders.

From her experience:

“I had a virtual meeting yesterday with a Harford County Public School official. She informed me that HCPS would accept our donation this year, but she advised me that instead of distributing the Constitutions to the 8th graders as is your mission, she had already spoken to the Media Specialists (Middle School librarians) and they plan to distribute Constitutions to students “who want them” in the middle school libraries. When I told her the plan was that they be given to 8th grade students, she did not respond. I asked what her plan actually looked like. How would these pocket constitutions be distributed, but she only stated that the Media Specialists had been advised that they would be receiving the donation.”

12. A more positive way to introduce studying the Constitution in your town or area is to influence those in politics, either local or statewide, to declare a Constitution week. If you want to try influencing your town or city to be more receptive to the Constitution, we had one volunteer in Wisconsin have luck with instituting a town Resolution to Celebrate Constitution Day/Week in America. She shared her cover letters and resolution templates with us and gave us permission to share with others. This would be part of a long-game approach to turning attitudes around. See resources to [Celebrate Constitution Day](#) in your town or state.. (8/8/23 Charlene Bliss Beyer is the volunteer who gave us all the Resolutions to Celebrate Constitution Day in America. A big Thank you to Charlene!)

Video #4- What will be mailed to you and when:

If your group is covering a county, you might have a large order.

1. It will come to the address given to us on the form
2. The boxes of 400 pocket Constitutions weigh 29 lbs each.
3. For each school to which you deliver, you will need to divide the box of 400 into packages for each school after calling to determine the real number of 8th graders. Your team can have fun and do as other areas have by decorating the boxes for the schools in patriotic colors.
4. We will send you an initial spreadsheet of schools that we think are in your area, but these are rough estimates only to give you an idea of the size of your requested project.
5. We print once a year in the spring and try to mail in the summer before school starts.
6. You can order for next fall any time after the first of the year and we will hold large orders to mail until summer.

7. Orders for non-8th grade related events are sent immediately upon donation and are sent at-cost for printing and shipping – if we have extras in stock from our previous spring's printing.
8. Again, we can't stress this enough for successful distribution.
 - a. Please have volunteers call all the schools on the spreadsheet to get accurate numbers of 8th graders and let us know if we are going to send way too many or too few as soon as possible.
 - b. Get a contact person name at the school to receive the Constitutions and
 - c. Arrange a time to deliver them that is convenient for the schools. Usually between 9 and 2 works so you don't get in pre- or post-school traffic jams, but just ask.
 - d. When delivering to the main office in the cases where you don't have a name of a school contact to receive them, it helps to explain to the person at the desk that these are specifically for 8th grade civics/social studies teachers and ask them to put the name of one of the teachers or the principal on the box or package you deliver to them.
 - e. We will include 4 inserts in each box for teachers which tell about the classroom contest, our free resource page for lesson plans on our website which has videos, quizzes, games, etc... and information on our scholarship program. If you still don't have enough, you can print more by downloading [the box inserts as Adobe Acrobat Documents](#). Sometimes a well-marked package is the difference between getting these into the classes and the Constitutions just sitting in a corner of the main office with no one knowing what is supposed to be done with them. Delivering to an individual and asking their name helps, too, for tracking/accountability purposes.

Thank you for being an awesome Patriot and Volunteer!