

How to Capture Video Testimonials

Volunteers across the state have incredible stories to share! Please help us share your story by shooting a brief 30-60 second video that will be used on ServeOhio's social media channels and/or featured in our bi-monthly newsletter.

Use the following questions to prompt your responses:

Note: Please do not answer every question. Choose 3-4 questions to answer that help you best tell your story of service.

- What is your name and where are you from?
- Where do/did you serve?
- What do/did you do?
- How has serving impacted your life?
- What did you enjoy most about your experience?
- If you received an award or grant, what does it mean to you?
- Why would you recommend serving to your peers?
- Where do you live now and what do you do (if you aren't currently serving)?



Tips for good video quality from your smartphone:

- Shoot in landscape orientation (turn your phone horizontally).
- Use a microphone if possible. If one is not available, get closer to the camera.
- Watch the head room. Make sure there is not too much empty space above the subject's head or that you are cutting off their forehead.
- Don't wear white or any crazy patterns.
- Make sure to practice what you want to say beforehand out loud. It always sounds different in your head than when it comes out of your mouth.
- Make sure to have the right tone depending on the message you're trying to convey.
- Watch the ums, uhs, and other crutch words you may have.
- If your hands are free, don't be afraid to use them to be expressive – within reason.
- If possible, use a tripod to help stabilize your footage. Otherwise, lean your phone on a stabilized surface.
- Try to avoid using zoom – it will pixelate your footage. Step closer to your camera if you want a closer shot.
- Light your video! Outdoor lighting or a well-lit room works fine.
- Find a quiet space to shoot your video – smartphone sound quality will already be low, so minimize background noise. If you are interviewing someone, get close to your subject so the microphone can capture the audio.

To submit your video file:

1. You can either download your video to your computer to upload to Dropbox or email it directly from your phone to Rebecca.Verhoff-Kiss@serveohio.gov.
2. If you choose to send your video via Dropbox, once it's saved to your computer, rename the video using this format: Name_Topic_Date (Ex: John Doe_ServeOhioAwards_3.27.20).
3. Upload the video file to Dropbox and send the link to Rebecca.Verhoff-Kiss@serveohio.gov.