

Law Day 2014
Theme: “American Veterans – Everyday Heroes”
Classroom Resources – Secondary

2014 Law Day Essay Contest Question

<http://www.nebarfnd.org/law-day-essay-contest>

The 2014 One Book One Nebraska is *Once Upon a Town* by Bob Greene. It is the story about the North Platte Canteen, a World War II project of support for all of the soldiers who rode the train through their town. The One Book Nebraska website describes the project in this manner: “Every day of the year, every day of the war, the Canteen--staffed and funded entirely by local volunteers--was open from five a.m. until the last troop train of the day pulled away after midnight. *Once Upon a Town* tells the story of how this plains community of only 12,000 people provided welcoming words, friendship, and baskets of food and treats to more than six million GIs by the time the war ended.”

After reviewing the website, OneBook.nebraska.gov, draft a plan for a service project in your community to assist locals in military service or those who have returned from service. Include in your plan:

- The need
- Those to be served
- How to organize the project and choose leaders
- How to recruit volunteers
- How to promote the project
- How to raise funds to support the project
- The reason you chose this project.

Applicable Social Studies Standard 12.1.2.c Engage in civic activities (e.g., discussing current issues, advocating for personal rights and the rights of others, influencing governmental actions, participating in civil discourse, registering for selective service, participating in community improvement activities, service learning)

Resources Related to the North Platte Canteen

One Book One Nebraska – *Once Upon a Town*

<http://onebook.nebraska.gov/2014/>

Website provides information about the book, the author, and additional resources related to the North Platte Canteen.

Lincoln County Historical Museum - The North Platte Canteen

<http://www.lincolncountymuseum.org/the-north-platte-canteen1>

An online exhibit shows how the story began; how the canteen was run; volunteering; quantification of the amounts of food served; and how the story ended.

Examples of Projects Serving Veterans or Military Personnel

Patriotic Productions

<http://www.patrioticproductions.org/>

This volunteer organization is the project of Bill and Evonne Williams of Omaha. The Williams have organized Honor Flights for Nebraska World War II and Korean War veterans to visit memorials in their honor in Washington, D.C. They have also created touring displays called Remembering Our Fallen, now in 11 states. Other events include spreading the word about how therapy dogs may help treat PTSD. In 2013, the Omaha World-Herald named the couple “Midlanders of the Year.”

<http://dataomaha.com/media/news/2013-midlanders/>

Wounded Warrior Project

<http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>

This organization exists to honor and empower Wounded Warriors. This website describes the organization's various projects and lists ways the public can volunteer or participate in a Proud Supporter event.

Veterans of Foreign Wars

<http://www.vfw.org/Community/Get-Involved/>

This website provides suggestions for ways to become involved in patriotic holidays, teaming up with the local VFW for community service, and information about the Buddy Poppy program.

Corporation for National & Community Service

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/>

A federal agency, which includes AmeriCorps and the President's service initiative, United We Serve. A section of the website, Serve in Your Community, provides suggestions for ways to become involved and for finding service opportunities in your state. Provides ability to search by keyword and zip code.

Hands On Network

<http://www.handsonnetwork.org/>

Associated with the Points of Light program, this website provides tools and resources to assist with creating local volunteer projects. Find local volunteer opportunities by entering a keyword or zip code.

Veterans History Project

<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>

This project of the Library of Congress provides resources for bringing together veterans and civilians to record the personal stories of those who served in the nation's wars. Stories that have been previously recorded are accessible from this website.

Wreaths Across America

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

Each December, at events across the country, volunteers place wreaths on the graves of the fallen as a way to remember them and honor their service. Opportunities are available to participate or nominate a new location for participation in the program. <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/act-now/>.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

<http://www.volunteer.va.gov/>

The Department offers a Student Volunteer Program to serve in VA medical centers. A college scholarship may also be available through this program.

Joining Forces

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/joiningforces>

The First Lady's program for taking action to serve America's military families.

The 15th Annual Law Day Essay Contest is cosponsored by
The Nebraska State Bar Foundation and the Nebraska Supreme Court
<http://www.nebarfnd.org/law-day-essay-contest>

