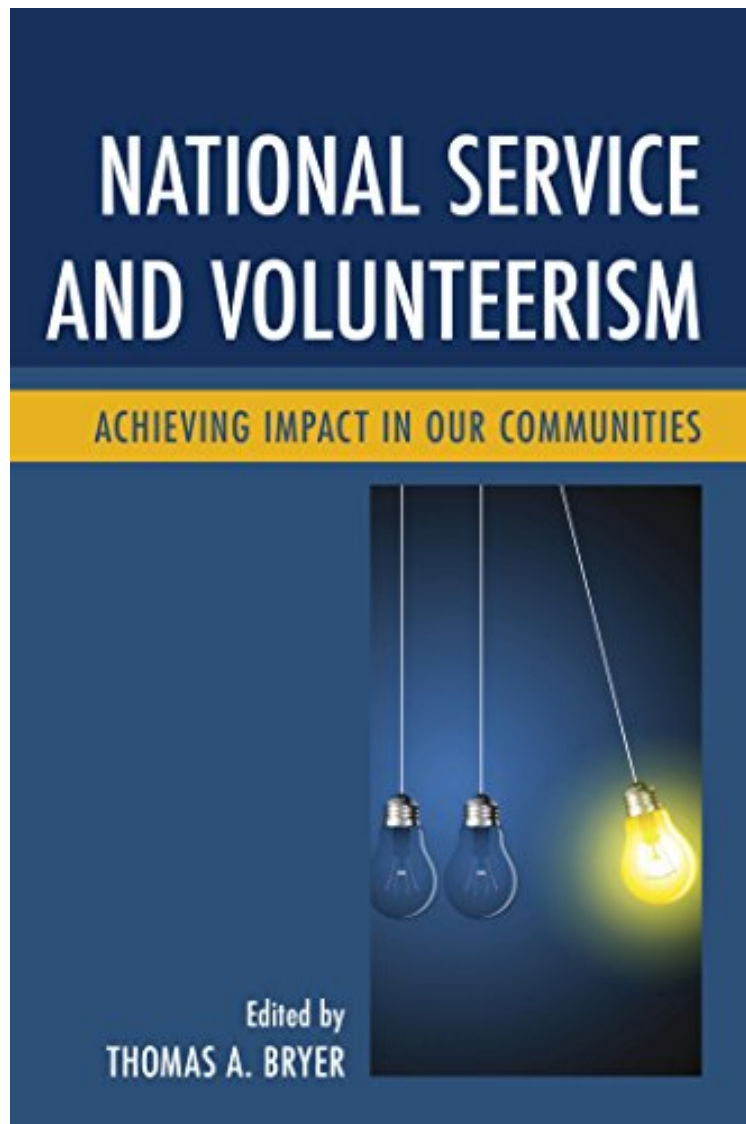


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From Lexington Books : National Service and Volunteerism: Achieving Impact in Our Communities before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised National Service and Volunteerism: Achieving Impact in Our Communities:

National service and volunteerism enjoy a rich history in the United States and an emergent future in other parts of the

world. However, there remains relatively scant evidence of overall impact of national service programs and volunteer effectiveness. This condition continues to threaten national service and volunteer programs with the risk of defunding and/or the risk of not investing sufficiently from the start. This book brings together a selection of diverse chapters written by a combination of academicians, students, and practitioners from three countries and across multiple states in the United States. Each chapter approaches its topic uniquely but links with all others in identifying the impacts of service and volunteerism for volunteers, for beneficiaries of service, for the institution of volunteering, and/or for whole communities. The book is divided in five sections: (1) developing volunteer initiatives to achieve impact, (2) impact for and by youth volunteers, (3) impact in social or policy areas, specifically economy and financial success, education, and emergency response, (4) international perspectives with focus on Chile, Venezuela, the United Kingdom, and the post-communist states of Lithuania and Romania, and (5) conclusion with summary and suggestions for future research and practice.

This book presents the combined efforts of a diverse group of students, scholars, and practitioners who write about volunteer programs across a dozen countries. The book's central and enormously important theme is about the impact of civic engagement. There's something here for everyone. Practitioners and students will enjoy the fresh voices and the first-hand, candid descriptions of volunteer program outcomes. Scholars will find these 17 chapters, given their breadth, offer considerable food for thought in the design of future impact research. (Beth Gazley, Indiana University-Bloomington) Based on research papers presented at a conference and supplemented by chapters by experts in the field, this collection makes a valuable contribution to our knowledge of national service and volunteerism. With its roots in both research and practice, the book has relevance for scholars, practitioners, policy makers, and students. (Jeffrey L. Brudney, Betty and Dan Cameron Family Distinguished Professor, University of North Carolina Wilmington) About the Author Thomas A. Bryer is associate professor and director of the Center for Public and Nonprofit Management in the School of Public Administration at the University of Central Florida