

ARMY ESSENTIAL ESSENTIAL ARMY



CORPS MISSION PROFILE

Every corps must be an equipping center where Salvationists will be trained and developed through: creative inspiring worship, biblical teaching, Christian education, supportive fellowship, and opportunities for outreach in service and evangelism.

We intend to make a difference in our communities with the witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the life of holiness and caring service.

Commissioners Israel L. & Eva D. Gaither
Territorial Leaders, USA East

All corps in the Eastern Territory are asked to use this tool to:

- review and celebrate present corps ministry
- strategize for future corps ministry enrichment and expansion
- assure corps ministry opportunities are being designed for all age groups
- consider ministry among cultural groups not presently served by the corps
- evaluate if ministry is reaching the poor and at-risk peoples
- ensure that our core mission values are built carefully into the foundation of every corps

Within this document you will find:

- *How to Use the Corps Mission Profile*
- *Our Mission Values—A Closer Look*
- *Corps Mission Foundations and Building Blocks*
- *Corps Mission Profile Grids*

Corps officers and leaders are being asked to complete the **Corps Mission Profile** process on an annual basis.

Implementation in the spring naturally leads to planning for the next Program Year. It is expected that the **Corps Mission Profile** process will be renewed each succeeding year by the leadership of the corps. At that time progress to date on current-year projections can be evaluated, and faith steps for the next program year should be developed.

Completing this process then enables coordinated budget planning with projected ministry initiatives and facilitates a good process of continual corps ministry expansion and the growing of healthy corps congregations.

It is our prayer that this approach will help you to clarify the calling of your corps congregation to serve your community, to identify focused action steps for fulfilling that vocation, and to passionately cooperate with the Holy Spirit in local Salvation Army mission.

You are asked to complete two **Corps Mission Profile** grids.

1. The **“God’s Work”** grid as an **evaluation** of the **current program year** and celebration of what God has done in the life of the corps.
2. The **“Faith Steps”** grid as a prayerful **planning tool** and statement of hope for the **coming program year**.

STEP ONE: “GOD’S WORK”

PRAY, LISTEN & DISCUSS

Convene for a significant time of prayer and creative reflection. Ask: What has God done in our midst over this past year? Create a group testimony that celebrates the presence and power of the Lord over the year.

COMPLETE THE PROFILE

Review the descriptions of the Mission Values. Insert onto the grid every corps mission activity of the current year, giving attention to the age categories and the frequency of activity.

One activity can be noted more than once on the grid if that activity is an expression of more than one value.

EVALUATE OUTCOMES

In addition to looking at age categories on the grid, ask three additional questions as you survey last year’s profile of activity:

- Are we honoring our special vocation as Salvationists to “remember the poor” in all our work?
- Are we embracing people from the cultural backgrounds of our community?
- Have we adequately financed our corps mission activity?

Share observations about the greatest strengths and significant areas of growth in the life and mission of the corps over the course of the year.

CELEBRATE

Organize a celebration for your corps to honor God’s work in your midst over the year. Include storytelling with praise and thanksgiving to the Lord, and involve a wide range of people. The following are possible ideas:

- September Rally Day Vision Casting Celebration
- Fall Harvest Festival Sunday
- New Year’s Eve Watchnight Service

STEP TWO: "FAITH STEPS" — GUIDELINES

PRAY, LISTEN & REVIEW

Ensure the planning process is undergirded by prayer and reflection. This is a discipline of listening to the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSS

Ask:

- What are our most significant areas of health?
- Should we add any activities in these areas?
- How can we reach every generation?
- How are the needs of our corps family—the "community of faith"—being met?
- What community needs can we meet?
- What are the gifts and capacities of our neighbors?
- How effectively do we reach the cultural groups in our neighborhood?
- In what ways do we remember the poor in our community?
- What is the calling of our corps to be in this neighborhood in this time?
- Which option from the corps health and revitalization manual are you planning to implement?

Aim for a brief written statement that captures your calling, and share this with everyone.

COMPLETE THE PROFILE

While referring to the **"God's Work"** grid for the current year, and based on the dialogue above, now complete the **"Faith Steps"** grid. This document will establish your objectives for the coming year.

REFLECT

Consider:

- How is our corps contributing towards the territorial missional priority of fiscal prudence? (See page 6.)
- How will we finance our mission activity this year?
- In what ways do the programs, soldiers, employees, and volunteers promote what we value?
- How does the appearance and design of our building convey to people what we value?
- What are our hopes for the coming year in our corps?

PROJECT

Prayerfully consider five-year projections for the mission of your corps. Use the **Faith Steps** grid to anticipate activities with respect to the five core integrated mission during this long-range time frame. If it would be more helpful to project over a different length of years, then adjust this projection as you see fit.

A CLOSER LOOK

The following mission values offer a diverse witness of Salvationism to any community and shape the programs of any corps.

We believe that these values reflect the essence of the Gospel, integrate the holiness of Jesus, and express the dynamism of Salvationism.

EVANGELISM

"The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2:47)

"Salvation" is our middle name! In Jesus, God has defeated all the powers of evil and poured out Himself in humble sacrifice to help and heal a creation that is broken and hurting. Christians declare and demonstrate this good news by imitating Jesus in the power of the Spirit in life, word, and deed. God's work of mending souls and making people well and whole is accomplished through believers who not only reason with the world and tell the story but also embody the message in holy, authentic lives and loving communities.

Salvation Army corps demonstrate a zeal for lost people in evangelistic and mission activities, in entering into the stories of others, and in well-organized linkages between social ministries and the healing community of the congregation. Remember: "Evangelize, or fossilize!"

Examples:

- HopeShare programs
- Salvation Meeting
- Door-to-door campaigns
- SONday/SCool
- Troop activities
- Outward-focused small groups

SOLDIERSHIP

Soldiership is a life-long commitment to being a **disciple** of Jesus through the ministry and organization of The Salvation Army.

Salvation Army corps give adherents' courses and soldier preparation classes for new attendees to become familiar with Salvation Army membership. Every corps must do whatever it can to cultivate leaders for today's mission fields—both near and far. The Articles of War call each soldier to value worship, prayer, service and reading the Bible.

The soldier promises to be a good steward, witness and to care for the poor.

Examples:

- Spiritual Formation
- Soldier Enrollment Services
- Jr. Soldiers

HOLINESS

"Holiness" and "red-hot religion" were among William Booth's "first principles" for Salvationists. Our holiness leaders both model and call for decisive and deep changes in life. We proclaim that it is possible to have a pure heart, unbroken fellowship with God, sanctified relationships and works motivated by love.

In **worship**, we intimately connect with God's holiness. We are renewed when we proclaim and enact God's story of rescuing the world. God gathers people together into the memory and transforming hope of His story, and He sends a thankful people back into the world as a living and holy parable of grace.

A Salvation Army corps offers unparalleled opportunity for corporate and small-group worship. People should discover a passionate Christ-centered spirituality in their local corps, and be welcomed into a prayer filled fellowship of memory and hope.

Examples:

- Holiness Meetings
- Bible Studies
- Prayer meetings
- Mid Week Worship

LEADERSHIP

Vision is collected, perceived and communicated through leaders. With the challenges facing us we need to develop leaders to help us see our way through today into the future.

William Booth was fond of employing new Christians directly in to service. Paul used the word "saints" for all the believers in the churches. While they were beset with a wide range of human afflictions and controversies, these brothers and sisters were beckoned into a long journey that began with inquiry, moved deeper into instruction and was intensified through spiritual formation. Leaders must be cultivated.

One of the great challenges of leadership is to enable the body to collectively serve together. When Paul was given authority to serve as an apostle to the Gentiles, the only request was that he would continue to remember the poor (Galatians 2:10). Christians are called to pursue justice, and Salvationists have shown great creativity and daring in challenging unjust structures and in sharing the sufferings of others.

Examples:

- Jr. Soldiers
- Corps Cadets
- New Soldier Classes

ARMY DISTINCTIVES

General Linda Bond said, "The DNA of The Salvation Army somehow is tattooed on our heads and hearts. We simply know what we are supposed to be about..." Captured within that tattoo are images of the doctrines of justification and sanctification, the tear from a mother whose daughter must go to bed hungry, a single woman officer preaching in a bar and a teen sharing the gospel at school. We see a young child delivering a war cry to a senior at a nursing home and a congregation enjoying a pot luck dinner. We see the flag flying on a hill in a remote village in China. We are distinct not because we are one of these things, but because we are a combination of them. The army distinctives are found in our **ministries**.

Examples:

- Cross over ministry through social services
- Neighborhood block parties
- Corps planting
- Troop activities

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is based on acknowledging that everything we have comes from God. Where have you see evidences of God's grace?

Examples:

- What is God doing in the midst of your corps at the present time?
- List significant answers to prayer that your corps recognized as from God this past year.
- What is your biggest prayer for your corps right now-something that your Divisional Leaders can pray about for your corps?

Jesus sought disciples who would be with Him, and Paul yearned for the church to be a healthy family. Christians seek the gift of community in and through Jesus Christ, and unity runs down from above like anointing oil and refreshing dew (Psalm 133).

Examples:

- World Service Ingathering
- World Service Fundraisers
- Family Finance and Budgeting Classes
- Harvest Festival

We always act upon and emphasize in daily experience what we truly value. Just as the DNA of any living body will be expressed in every cell of that body, so the values and soul of the Salvationist body of believers will flourish in the organism of every healthy corps.

The following are foundational to corps health and growth. They are the **required minimal** expression of Salvation Army ministry.

- Sunday Worship
- Weekly children’s evangelism
- Regular youth & adult evangelism
- Weekly Sunday School/Christian education
- Annual Vacation Bible School
- Weekly prayer & Bible study meetings
- Regular Jr. Soldier & Sr. Soldier enrollments and training programs
- Weekly social ministry
- Regular women’s ministry/Regular men’s ministry
- Regular Corps Cadet Meetings
- Regular visitation (officer/team)

BUILDING BLOCKS

As the mission of the corps thrives in various areas, various “building blocks” will be added to the foundation. Some of these may actually be constructed into the foundation. Various local leadership teams (e.g., Corps Council, Pastoral Care Council, etc.) should be considered critical to corps mission development. There will be rich variety and creativity in the building process from corps to corps, and even within each corps throughout its history. The following list of building blocks is not exhaustive. Divisional and territorial headquarters exist to resource every corps in the building process. Care must always be given to ministries that embrace the poor and every generation and culture.

- Advisory Councils/Boards
- Advocacy for social justice
- After-school programs and Learning Centers
- Alternative worship experiences
- Basic needs ministries
- Community Care Ministries
- Pastoral Care Council
- Creative arts groups
- Day-care centers
- Discipleship groups/classes
- Employment programs
- Evangelistic campaigns
- Instrumental music groups
- Leader development training
- Mentoring programs
- Ministries to immigrants
- Neighborhood visitation
- Open-air meetings
- Outreach programs
- Pastoral Care Council
- Prison ministries
- Recovery programs
- Safe haven and recreation programs
- Servant evangelism efforts
- Small groups
- SONday’SCHOOL & other HopeShare programs
- Senior citizen centers
- Troop activities (Sunbeams, Girl Guards, Adventure Corps, etc.)
- Vocal music groups

A BALANCED REQUIRED MINIMUM STANDARD

OUR MISSION VALUES	CHILDREN 0-12	TEENS 13-18	YOUNG ADULTS	ADULTS	OLDER ADULTS 60+
HOLINESS	Sunday Corporate Worship (Holiness Meeting)				
EVANGELISM	Weekly Children’s Evangelism	Weekly Youth Evangelism	Regular Adult Evangelism		
SOLDIERSHIP	Weekly Sunday School/Christian Education				
		Senior Soldier Prep			
		Weekly Prayer & Bible Study Meetings			
ARMY DISTINCTIVES	Regular Social Services Ministry				
		Regular Visitation			
		Women’s Ministry			
		Men’s Ministry			
LEADERSHIP	Junior Soldiers	Corps Cadets			
STEWARDSHIP	World Services				

“ANYTOWN CITADEL”

CORPS MISSION FOUNDATIONS

OUR MISSION VALUES	CHILDREN 0-12	TEENS 13-18	YOUNG ADULTS	ADULTS	OLDER ADULTS 60+
HOLINESS	Sunday Corporate Worship (Holiness Meeting)				
	Prayer Meeting				
EVANGELISM	SONday'SCOOL		Door-to-Door Campaigns		
	HopeShare		Small Groups		
	After-School Learning Centers				
	Sunbeams	Girl Guards			
	Adventure Corps				
SOLDIERSHIP	Sunday School				
	Bible Study				
	Corps Cadets		Spiritual Formation Group		
	YP Band		Senior Band		
	Singing Company		Senior Songsters		
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ARMY DISTINCTIVES	Corps Shelter				
	AA/NA Meetings				
	Emergency Assistance				
	Community Care Ministries				
	Women's Ministries				
	Men's Club				
LEADERSHIP	Junior Soldiers	Corps Cadets			
STEWARDSHIP	World Services				

Corps Name: _____

Date prepared by Corps Council: _____

Date reviewed by reviewing officer: _____

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