

Juror Appreciation Kit



COURTS THROUGHOUT THE NATION CELEBRATE JUROR APPRECIATION WEEK ANNUALLY. We hope that you will join the celebration in honor of jurors and the jury system.

By helping courts implement Juror Appreciation Week, the American Bar Association Commission on the American Jury hopes to

- Reinforce public confidence in the justice system
- Improve communication with jurors and employers
- Disseminate an important and positive message to the public about jury service

We are urging courts across the nation to celebrate **Juror Appreciation Week** immediately following Law Day on May 1. This kit describes a variety of juror appreciation activities to help courts devise programs that will honor local citizens who serve as jurors.

ABA Commission ★★★★★★
on the American Jury



JUROR APPRECIATION ACTIVITIES

Thank-You Gifts

- Distribute juror appreciation certificates to jurors
- Provide coffee, donuts, and other refreshments for jurors
- Distribute souvenirs or gifts
 - Items such as mugs, pens or bookmarks, imprinted with a juror appreciation message
 - Gavel key chains
 - “I’ve Been a Juror” buttons
 - A free daily newspaper
 - Free tickets to a local sporting event
- Give door prizes such as tee shirts or gift baskets
- Have court personnel wear buttons that say “We Appreciate Our Jurors”

Special Presentations or Events

- Invite high-court officials and/or celebrities to welcome jurors
- Present awards, certificates or thank-you cards to
 - Jurors who have made extra efforts to serve (e.g., a disabled juror who braved a snowstorm to get to jury service)
 - Jurors serving during Juror Appreciation Week, including any invited former jurors
 - Celebrities who have served in the previous year
 - Students who have written award-winning essays about the jury or jury service
- Arrange for proclamations or resolutions by local government in honor of Juror Appreciation Week
- Ask newspapers to donate ad space to publish the resolution or proclamation
- Hang student-created posters or banners and honor the student artists
- Organize lunch-hour presentations or concerts in or near the courthouse
- Set up an information fair with booths near the courthouse

continued

Special Presentations or Events (continued)

- Plan presentations or lectures by
 - A court team about various roles in the court (e.g., judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, court clerk, court reporter)
 - A local law enforcement official about self-defense
 - Non-profit organizations about community service activities and opportunities
 - Court staff regarding court programs and initiatives
- Distribute brochures for walking tours of historical sites or interesting landmarks close to the courthouse

Public Outreach and Education

- Air public service announcements on radio
- Publish op-ed pieces about jury service experiences or the role of the jury
- Conduct mock trials at local colleges or high schools, allowing students to be jurors
- Conduct the ABA's *Dialogue on the American Jury* (available at www.abanet.org/jury/dialogue.html) at local colleges or high schools
- Show juror orientation videos at community centers, local colleges, or local high schools

Public Involvement

- Ask local public officials or governments (e.g., city councils, county legislatures) to issue resolutions or proclamations honoring Juror Appreciation Week
- Ask local newspapers to issue editorials honoring Juror Appreciation Week
- Ask local media to cover Juror Appreciation activities
- Conduct essay or poster design contests for high school, college and graduate students and announce winners during Juror Appreciation activities
- Collaborate with public schools to have students develop jury room banners
- Send court speakers to schools for special presentations

Outreach to Employers

- Encourage employers to pay jurors' salaries during service
- Present awards to employers who make jury service easy for their employees
- Host employer luncheons to thank them for supporting the jury system