Join us for Citizen Archivist Week of Service!

In the spirit of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, join us January 15-19, 2018 for a week-long citizen archivist challenge.

Our goal is to tag or transcribe 2,018 pages in the National Archives Catalog during Citizen Archivist Week of Service. Can you help us meet this challenge?
Get started by visiting the Citizen Archivist Dashboard beginning January 15. During that week, we’ll have a special expanded missions session and lots of featured records waiting to be transcribed. For our new volunteers, you’ll also find instructions on how to create an account and get started.

You can help us unlock history by tagging and transcribing primary source documents in the National Archives Catalog. As you add tags or transcriptions to these records, those words are added to our Catalog – improving search results, and making our records more discoverable online. The added benefit is that we’re unlocking the sometimes difficult to read text for all to understand. We like to say that as we tag and transcribe, we are unlocking history.
A sample of some of the records you will find in our missions this week

Ready to get started? Visit our Resources page to learn How to Tag and Transcribe Records, learn What Makes A Good Tag, and review Transcription Tips.

Encourage Service Week in your classroom!

Are you an educator? A great way to get students involved is by playing the tagging game. It’s a head-to-head or team-versus-team challenge to list as many keywords (Tags) that describe or identify item in an image. After one minute of writing keywords, teams compare their lists and scores are awarded. Before moving on to the next image, the game host adds all the keywords as tags into the Catalog description. You can find more information and resources for both tagging and transcription on our dashboard.

Stay in touch!

Send us a tweet @USNatArchives using the hashtag CitizenArchivistServiceWeek to let us know what you’re working on and what you find in the records.
Follow us throughout the week to keep up with our progress. We’ll post updates on the Citizen Archivist Dashboard, and on social media.

We look forward to your contributions during our Week of Service – and always! Together with our virtual volunteers, we can help unlock history and make the records of the National Archives more discoverable online.

New to Citizen Archivist? Register and Get Started

Have a question? Find answers on History Hub!
History Hub is a support community for history enthusiasts, researchers, citizen archivists, family historians, and archival professionals. Visit us at now at history.gov!

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.