

Cover Sheet

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The date was December 28, 1776, I was scurrying along the floor when I ran into something hard. It was Benjamin Franklin's shoe! I guess he felt it because he picked me up and put me in his soft cozy pocket. I couldn't really tell what was going on, but I knew we were in a room with two men. Oh, and we were in France because there was writing on a paper, and it was in French. Mr. Franklin started talking to me about the French Foreign Minister, Charles Gravier, and how he has already supplied war equipment and funds for the American Revolution. Then after Benjamin Franklin persisted on getting Charles Gravier to sign a treaty, Gravier started to become shaky at the idea of signing this with America because it meant that France would have to go into direct conflict with the British. This could also bankrupt the French because the success of the Continental Army is still uncertain and wars are very expensive. Even though the agreement ultimately didn't work out, I learned a valuable lesson of persistence and service to my country from my new friend Ben.

I started to wonder how Franklin is different from other humans I've seen. It just came to me that he is one of the amazing founding fathers! He is one of the extraordinary gentlemen that signed the Declaration of Independence, which is a document saying that the United States of America is its own country and is no longer part of Britain or their rule. He also seems knowledgeable about all sorts of things besides just governments, and his history of service and volunteering for his community, like creating a volunteer fire brigade, is why I think he is so well respected by his fellow humans. Benjamin Franklin believes that science and logic hold the answers to the world's mysteries. He is also very kind because he picked me up and cared for me when he could have just tossed me out on the street. I can't get enough of how amazing Benjamin Franklin is and what he has done and what he is going to do in the future. Hopefully he

will take me back across the Atlantic with him to Philadelphia, New York, or Boston so I can ride along and witness the next chapter of his service to his new nation.

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Benjamin Franklin once said "Lost time is never found again," and in order to fully understand his words, we have to analyze the deeper meaning. The beginning of the quote says "lost time." Lost time is time that has been misused or is useless to us or others. The last part of the quote says "is never found again." This reminds us that the time will never be recovered. Almost every American today can relate to both lost time and the inability to gain the time back. In March of 2020, a global pandemic had everyone stuck inside and many people were separated from their loved ones. Personally, the isolation gave me time to reflect on life and recollect memories of life before Covid. One thing that I acknowledged was that I had so many regrets. I regretted not hanging out with my friends, turning down family time and most importantly, being sucked into a constant loophole of technology. For my generation, technology encompasses nearly every moment of life. Prior to Covid and the onset of virtual learning, technology had already started to replace face to face interactions and now technology is the norm. Technology took over all of my time. The worst realization I had was the fact that none of that time would ever come back to me. I would never get those opportunities again. I regretted the times when I stayed home on my phone rather than going someplace with my parents, or when I was texting my friends rather than playing hockey with my brother, or even me playing video games instead of helping my mom out. In that moment of reflection, I realized that the time I had lost was not coming back and I had to move on from my regrets. I had to change my ways in order to make the most of my time. I began to be present and live in every moment when faced with an opportunity to be with others. When I disconnected from technology, I treasured time with family and friends, I furthered my knowledge and I gained valuable memories and

experiences. I still have a long way to go in making the change into a new habit, like going outside in the frigid cold to play with my brother when I would rather stay inside, but I know that I may never get that chance again. I know that many other people had time to reflect on their own lives and the time that passed them by too. Hopefully, many people, like me, learned from their lost time and are changing their ways as well.

Benjamin Franklin was wise before his time and may have even seen into our future, because his words live on today.

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Glade Valley Lions Club

In the year 1736, one of the nation's most prominent founding fathers demonstrated an act of volunteerism that has inspired communities world-wide. The Union Fire Company was co-founded by Benjamin Franklin in early December of 1736 after a series of buildings and homes were destroyed just a few years prior. Similar to present-day fire companies, the Union Fire company was dependent on volunteers. Members of the company would each be expected to supply six water buckets and two linen bags for transporting items out of burning buildings. As the Union Fire Company proved to be successful, the volunteers multiplied, allowing the awareness to spread to other communities around the new nation. Fire companies are now customary in modern-day communities. While funding has allowed for paid employment for several members of each company, there is still a heavy reliance on volunteers.

Likewise to our founding father, I find joy in helping others and providing a solution to problems in my community. Rather than expecting a form of payment for my acts of service, I am satisfied by simply seeing the difference I made in someone's life. The city of Frederick has quickly become a heavily-populated and expensive place to live. Understandably, homelessness in the ever-growing city has made itself known. In order to address and make light of this issue, I have been a regular volunteer at the Frederick Soup Kitchen, where warm meals are prepared and served for the community every afternoon and evening. Additionally, I have enjoyed collaborating with my high school LEO Club to plan service projects throughout the town of Walkersville. Restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic have made volunteerism particularly difficult this year, but not nonexistent. A large group of our club members meet monthly at local parks and nature centers to pick up trash. Several tree-planting events have been attended and advertised by our club members to promote a healthy environment as well. Holiday and greeting



cards have been hand-written and delivered to local nursing homes in such troublesome circumstances. Serving as a proud member and President of this club, these acts of service have become tradition. I have no doubt that my fellow classmates will carry on these traditions as we transition from high school.

It is important to note that volunteering is not a one-man job. The key to community service is in the domino-effect. The satisfaction that comes from helping others is something that forces you to share with others. Desiring that same satisfaction, friends and family reach out in their own acts of service in their communities, and so the domino-effect begins. While it doesn't quite equate to establishing an entire fire company, I hope to have the same inspiration to others in my community so that volunteerism can continue to grow and change the lives of others for the better.

Susan Bonura

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South Carroll Lioness Lions Club

**Adult Essay Topic:** The US has a strong tradition of volunteering beginning in 1736 with Benjamin Franklin. In the spirit of Benjamin Franklin and his tradition of invention, develop a new service project and map out its details.

American Heritage, Preservation, & Patriotism  
2021-2022 Essay Contest

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) was a statesman, author, publisher, scientist, inventor and diplomat. He helped establish a lending library in 1731, a time when books were not widely available in the colonies. Franklin's lending library in Philadelphia remained the largest U.S. public library until the 1850s.

In the spirit of Benjamin Franklin, the South Carroll Lioness Lions Club will build, register and maintain a Little Free Library at the Carroll Hospital Center. There are many visitors to the hospital who would enjoy the availability of a book while they wait to see a doctor, have a test or visit a friend. Little Libraries promote literacy and strengthen communities as people meet around the exchange box.

A Little Free Library functions on the honor system and is a free book-sharing box where anyone may take a book or share a book. Registered little libraries have a primary caretaker, called a Little Free Library steward. As the steward, my Lions club will take care of basic maintenance, keep the library clean and inviting, and ensure that it is stocked with good books.

The first step in planning a Little Free Library is to decide where to place it. My Lion's club has selected the Carroll Hospital Center for our Little Free Library. Permission for this location will be sought from the hospital's administration.

The second step in planning our Little Free Library are legal considerations. A certificate of insurance will be obtained from Lions Clubs International for our library.

Our third step will be to build the exchange box which will serve as the Little Free Library. Our box will include the Lions Club logo, our Lions Club's name, email address and website.

Next, we will create our library considering the people we expect to use it. We plan to include a selection of children's books, large-print books as well as favorite classics and modern novels. We will monitor the use of our library and adjust the types of books included based upon books taken from and left in the library.

We will register our exchange box on the Little Free Library website to give it the official "Little Free Library" moniker, and help others find it through GPS coordinates. Then we will send announcements to town and community newsletters, post flyers in nearby businesses and post information on social media such as Facebook.

Lastly, we will monitor our library inventory, replace books that are damaged and keep our Little Library clean, inside and out, to make it an enjoyable destination all year long.

Benjamin Franklin would be proud of our efforts!