

Tribal Leaders Guide to **Selective Service System**



**U.S. SELECTIVE
SERVICE SYSTEM**

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[Dr. Kathleen Hicks, Deputy Secretary of Defense, April 6, 2023]

INTRODUCTION

The Selective Service System (SSS) values your influence as a Tribal Leader in your community.

The Selective Service System (SSS) is an independent Federal agency that has been a distinguished part of America’s history, spanning eras of conflict and peace. The Agency represents an additional tier of support to our Nation’s all-volunteer military in the event of a national emergency. A top SSS priority is for males between the ages of 18 and 25 to register. These young males may easily register online at sss.gov. They may also register at U.S. Postal Service locations.

The Military Selective Service Act (MSSA) and Presidential Proclamation 4771 require males to register. A high registration rate helps to ensure the most fair and just national draft lottery would occur should the country mobilize due to a national emergency. Registration is different than conscription. Conscription could only happen if authorized by Congress and the President, and it would involve a national draft lottery.

SSS has enjoyed the support of Presidential administrations since its formal establishment as an independent agency in 1940, which built on its initial formation in 1917 during World War I as part of the Department of War. Additionally, SSS works with Federal, state, local, and tribal governments to help inform young males about the registration requirement. This Tribal Leaders toolkit is a resource that will provide you with information to raise awareness of, and compliance with, the registration requirement. The support that you provide in helping your community learn about this essential civic duty is invaluable to the future of our youth.

Thank you for providing this vital information to your community.

HOW TO REGISTER

HOW TO REGISTER

The quickest and easiest way for you to register is online www.sss.gov/register.

- If you do not have a Social Security number, you can register at any U.S. Post Office and request a Selective Service Registration Form 1.
- If you received a registration-reminder letter, you may register via the form received .
- If you received a registration card in the mail, you are eligible to register over the phone with the PIN that was provided to you on the card.
- You may also register at any high school, with assistance from a guidance counselor or teacher.
- You may register at any U.S. Embassy or consular office.
- There are opportunities for you to register when you are applying for Federal job-training programs, a driver's license, or state ID. (Varies with specific state legislation).

Your registration process is not complete until you receive an instant confirmation online, or a printed acknowledgment in the mail. A registration-acknowledgment card will be mailed four to six weeks after registration and will include your Selective Service number. This is an important document, and you should retain it.

Once you have registered, your only responsibility is to notify Selective Service within 10 days of any changes to your address or other information in your registration record. After January 1 of the year in which you will reach age 26, you are no longer required to notify Selective Service of changes to your registration record.

Learn more about registration through legislation by States, Territories, and the District of Columbia, at www.sss.gov/register/state-commonwealth-legislation/.

BENEFITS OF REGISTRATION

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A young male must register with Selective Service to have access to the benefits listed here.

Student Aid

The law provides that only those males who have registered with Selective Service are eligible to receive some types of student financial aid.

Most states have enacted legislation that requires young males to register to be eligible for State education funds. Some States also require registration for a young male to receive in-state tuition rates and entry into State colleges or universities.

Federal Job Training Programs

A male participating in training and employment programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), must be registered with Selective Service to receive a job or training benefits.

The WIOA helps strengthen and improve the United States' public workforce system. It helps youth and those with significant barriers to employment, by providing high-quality jobs and careers. It also helps employers hire and retain skilled workers.

Federal Employment

Agencies requiring registration as a condition of employment eligibility include all Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government's executive branch, including the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Park Service, and the United States Postal Service. Learn more about Federal job opportunities at www.usajobs.gov.

Many States, local-government agencies, police departments, and State bar examiners require applicants to register to be eligible for employment or state education funds. Such conditions are established by local law and policy and may vary from state to state.

Citizenship

Male immigrants must be registered with Selective Service to qualify for U.S. citizenship if they first arrived in the United States before turning 26 years old. Failure to register can delay a male's citizenship process by up to 5 years.

WHO MUST REGISTER

CATEGORY	YES	NO
All male U.S. citizens who are 18 but not yet 26 years old, except as noted below.	X	
MILITARY RELATED		
Members of the Armed Forces on active duty (Note that “active duty for training” does not constitute “active duty” for registration purposes.)		X*
Cadets and midshipmen at service academies or the Coast Guard Academy		X*
Cadets at the Merchant Marine Academy	X	
Students in officer-procurement programs at The Citadel, University of North Georgia, Norwich University, Virginia Military Institute, Texas A&M University, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University		X*
ROTC students	X	
National Guardsmen and reservists not on active duty / Civil Air Patrol members	X	
Delayed Entry Program enlistees	X	
Separatees from active military service, separated for any reason before age 26	X*	
Males rejected for enlistment for any reason before age 26	X	
IMMIGRANTS**		
Lawful non-immigrants on current non-immigrant visas		X
Permanent resident immigrants (USCIS Form I-551)	X	
Seasonal agricultural workers (H-2A visa)		X
Refugee, parolee, and asylee immigrants	X	
Undocumented immigrants	X	
Dual national U.S. citizens	X	
CONFINED		
Incarcerated, hospitalized, or institutionalized for medical reasons		X*
PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY		
Able to function in public with or without assistance	X	
Continually confined to a residence, hospital, or institution		X
TRANSGENDER OR NON-BINARY PEOPLE		
U.S. citizens or immigrants who are born male and identify as female or non-binary	X	
Individuals who are born female and identify as male or non-binary		X



*Males must register within 30 days of release unless already age 26. To be fully exempt you must have been on active duty or confined continuously from age 18 to 26.

**Male residents of Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, and Northern Mariana Islands are U.S. citizens. Citizens of American Samoa are nationals and must register when they are habitual residents of the United States or have resided in the United States for at least one year. Habitual residence is presumed, and registration is required, whenever a national or a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or Palau, resides in the United States for more than one year in any status, except when the individual resides in the United States as an employee of the government of his homeland or as a student who entered the United States for the purpose of full-time studies, as long as such person maintains that status.

A complete list of acceptable documentation for exemption may be found at www.sss.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/DocumentationList.pdf.

RAISING REGISTRATION AWARENESS

OUTREACH LETTER

Our Agency has comprised an example letter that can be utilized as a tool to be distributed among your tribal council. This letter will help the Selective Service System mission as we continue to communicate the importance of registering males in a fair and equitable manner.

[Organization/Contact Name],

Federal law requires all males ages 18-25 who are U.S. citizens and those who have dual citizenship living abroad to register with Selective Service within 30 days of their eighteenth birthday. Most young males register when obtaining a driver's license or applying for certain student loans when enrolling in college. Others register directly on our website, www.sss.gov.

Since 1980, males registered with the Selective Service have benefited from opportunities, including access to many student loans, grants, and scholarships, millions of jobs with the federal government, free job training under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and a streamlined process for citizenship. It is our mission to continuously register males in a fair and equitable manner. Selective Service is honored by the dedicated and enthusiastic members that make up our Local Boards and State Directors. If a military draft becomes necessary, more than 2,000 local and appeal boards comprised of approximately 11,000 volunteer civilian board members nationwide would be activated for service.

Please consider becoming a pillar of knowledge by volunteering with the Selective Service to educate our youth on the opportunities provided by registering. For more information, please contact TribalGovernmentConsultation@sss.gov if you'd like the Agency to mail registration awareness materials; if you or any other members of your Nation are interested in serving on a board; if you'd like to discuss opportunities to work together; or for any other purposes.

We look forward to working with you.

[Your Name]

“The Congress further declares that in a free society the obligations and privileges of serving in the Armed Forces and the Reserve Components thereof should be shared generally, in accordance with a system of selection which is fair and just, and which is consistent with the main tenants of an effective national economy.”

[Section 44 Military Selective Service Act]

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

This section can be used as a guide to how to make young males aware of SSS registration by means of various social-media platforms.

TOPIC/FACT	SAMPLE FACEBOOK POST	SAMPLE TWITTER POST
Register	Don't miss out! Register with the SSS and stay on the right side of the law. You can do it in no time—head over to https://www.sss.gov/ and sign up today! #registertoday #sssgov	Virtually all males ages 18-25 are required by law to register for the Selective Service. Register today to secure access to many student loans, scholarships, and grants. Learn more at sss.gov .
Failure to Register	Make sure you're good to go! Don't miss out on a lifetime of benefits, it just takes a quick, easy online registration at sss.gov . Completing your #CivicDuty couldn't be simpler - don't let this opportunity slip away!	#DYK that after males reach their 26th birthday, they may be denied student loans, federal career training, and millions of federal jobs? Make sure you stay informed – learn more at https://www.sss.gov/register/men-26-and-older/ and get your registrations in before it's too late!
Volunteers	Outreach materials are available on our website to assist volunteers and local community leaders in bringing awareness to the Selective Service registration requirement. Learn more at https://www.sss.gov/news-and-media/outreach-materials/ .	Want to become part of the SSS team? It all starts @ the local level - nominated by state governors or equivalent officials and appointed by the Director of the SSS on behalf of the President. Visit https://www.sss.gov/volunteers/ to find out how YOU can join the team! #Volunteer #Government
Content Promotion	Time Travel is hard, but forgetting to register with SSS could make your life even harder. Registration keeps males eligible for many federal #benefits, #money for #college, and much more. Register at sss.gov . https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yrp2Q4w3I2Q	You're almost there. Your boy just turned 18 but he needs one last push. Remind him to register with SSS at SSS.gov #Federalbenefits https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jP0-G6M-kxiY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION?

Registration is a list of names of males maintained by the Selective Service from which to draw in case of a national emergency requiring rapid expansion of our Armed Forces. By registering all young males, Selective Service ensures that a future draft would be fair and equitable. Registering with Selective Service does not mean you are joining the military.

WHY IS SELECTIVE SERVICE NEEDED?

America's leaders agree that even with the success of the United States' current all-volunteer military force, registration with Selective Service must continue as a key component of our national-security strategy. As President Bill Clinton informed Congress in 1994, "Maintaining the Selective Service System and draft registration provides a hedge against unforeseen threats and a relatively low-cost 'insurance policy' against our underestimating the maximum level of threat we expect our Armed Forces to face."

CAN MALES UNDER THE AGE OF 18 REGISTER?

Yes. Selective Service accepts early registrations of males as young as 17 years and 3 months of age. If an applicant registers early, Selective Service will hold his information until 30 days before his 18th birthday. At that time, Selective Service will process his registration, and the registrant will receive a registration-acknowledgment card in the mail, confirming his Selective Service registration.

WHY ARE MALES WHO MAY NOT BE FIT FOR SERVICE OR WHO ARE MORALLY OPPOSED REQUIRED TO REGISTER?

Selective Service is responsible for availability, while the Department of Defense is responsible for acceptability, in the event of a future draft. If a male is called on to serve, he will then be able to submit a claim for reclassification or exemption. A parent or guardian may submit a claim on his behalf if he is unable to do so.

“If the United States were to go to a major conflict... We have Reserve components we would pull in, and we also have [the] Selective Service out there. I say that only because I don’t want people to think the all-volunteer force is sort of alone when the United States must make major decisions. They do not stand alone.”

[Dr. Kathleen Hicks, Deputy Secretary of Defense, April 6, 2023]

DOES SELECTIVE SERVICE COLLECT OR SHARE IMMIGRATION STATUS’?

Selective Service does not now, nor has it in the past, collected or shared any information that would indicate a male’s immigration status, either documented or undocumented. Selective Service has no authority to collect such information.

HOW CAN A PERSON CHECK IF THEY ARE REGISTERED?

If a male is unsure of his registration status, he should go to www.sss.gov/verify. He will be prompted to enter his last name, Social Security number, and date of birth, in the online form. If he is registered, he will find his registration status with Selective Service at this link, and will also see another link where he can immediately obtain a copy of his registration-acknowledgment letter from Selective Service. If he is not successful in verifying his registration status online, he can call for assistance at 1-847-688-6888.

WHY ARE WOMEN NOT REQUIRED TO REGISTER?

As currently written, Federal law requires that “male persons” aged 18 to 25 register with the Selective Service. It would require an Act of Congress or a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court to change this law.

IS ANYTHING ELSE REQUIRED AFTER A MALE REGISTERS?

After a male registers, and until he turns 26 years old, he is required to notify the Selective Service within 10 days of an address change. If a male changes his name, he must also notify the Selective Service and provide documentation to support this change.

For answers to additional frequently asked questions, visit www.sss.gov/faq/. If you have other questions, feel free to contact TribalGovernmentConsultation@sss.gov.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Prior to Civil War

Each state maintained its own militia, with limited Federal direction guidance or regulation. All able bodied men of military age (18-45) would enroll with very lax requirements. Citizen's willingness to serve was given priority over liability.

Prior to 1861



1861-1865



Civil War

The War department was put in charge of executing the draft. All military groups were instructed to visit homes in search of eligible males. The Enrollment Act of 1863 involuntarily called men to service. Quotas were established by districts, but rarely were filled. At this time there was no organized selection process put into place. Willingness to serve was given priority over liability.

World War I

The first national conscription system comes into being in 1917. Congress passes a draft law based on "the liability to military service of all male citizens." The law authorized a draft of men between the ages of 21 and 31. A new classification system gave the newly created local boards a set of guidelines to determine which men should be drafted. Total # inducted: 2,810,296.

1914-1918



1939-1945



World War II

On September 16, 1940, the Selective Service Training and Service Act (the nation's first peacetime draft law) was signed. By the end of the war, over 45 million men between the ages of 18 and 64 had been registered. 15 million of the men who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during WWII, approximately 66% were inducted. Total # inducted: 10,110,104.

Cold War

The Selective Service Training and Service Act expired in 1947. Only a year later, at President Truman's request, new peacetime draft legislation was passed to supplement voluntary recruiting.

1947-1949



1950-1953



Korean War

President Truman authorizes the Armed Forces to use the draft if necessary during the Korean crisis. The Selective Service provided 27% of the men in uniform during the Korean War. As a result of the Physicians and Dentists Draft Act, 7,054 physicians and 3,799 dentists are delivered by Selective Service to the Armed Forces. Less than 50 of them were actually inducted. Total # inducted: 1,529,539.

Vietnam War

In the 1950s and early 1960s, the U.S. presence in Vietnam expanded with increasing intensity. The Selective Service encountered protest about unfair deferments fueled by an anti-war sentiment. The Selective Service provided 20% of the men in uniform during the Vietnam War. Total # inducted: 1,857,304 The last man inducted entered the Army on June 30, 1973.

1950-1975



Deep Standby

Registration was suspended in early 1975 and the Selective Service System entered into a "deep standby" position.



1976-1980

Out of Deep Standby

In late 1979, a series of revival efforts began in an effort to upgrade the Selective Service System's capability for rapid mobilization in an emergency. In the summer of 1980 the registration requirement was resumed.

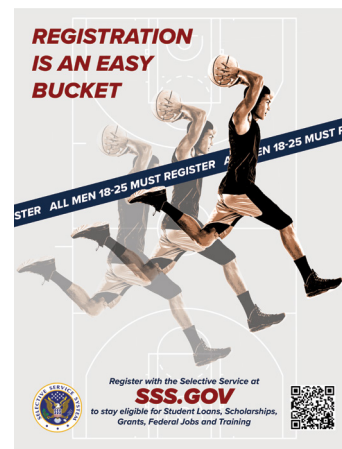


1980-Present

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

PRINTABLE MATERIALS

Find printable brochures and posters to help you share the Selective Service requirement. You can easily download and print the materials from our website at www.sss.gov/news-and-media/outreach-materials/, or contact publicaffairs@sss.gov to request printed materials or other specific outreach material requests.

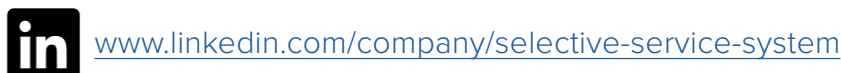


INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Tribal Leaders play an important community role closely connected with United States' defense. In the event of a draft, approximately 2,000 Selective Service Local Boards would decide which registrants in their respective communities receive deferments, postponements, and/or exemptions based upon established criteria.

To get involved, visit www.sss.gov/volunteers/.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA




You can also visit your local post office for more information.

THANK YOU

FROM SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM



**NATIONAL
HEADQUARTERS**

 (703) 605-4100

 [sss.gov](https://www.sss.gov)

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