



## CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### IDEA LIST: CREATIVE WAYS TO IMPLEMENT THE MEDAL OF HONOR CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

#### Medal of Honor Mondays

Each Monday (or whatever frequency works best for you), incorporate a lesson into your classroom. If time is an issue, simply show your students one of our living history videos and initiate a classroom discussion about the video and the six core values exemplified by the Recipient in the video.

If you are doing a school wide implantation, consider showing a single video to the whole school on Monday, with teachers across all departments and grade levels referring to the video throughout the week with lessons or activities.

#### Homeroom/Advisory

Our Living History videos of Medal of Honor Recipients or our videos featuring Citizen Honors Awardees followed by brief discussions are a great way to connect with students in an advisory or homeroom setting. You can find our full library of videos on our website or on YouTube.

Many of our lessons also feature Introductory Activities that can function as standalone conversation starters to get your students thinking about the values.

If you are looking for short, easy lessons to do during a limited time block, consider diving into the Dear Young American series. The 12 lessons feature direct advice from Medal of Honor Recipients and take about 20-30 minutes to complete. While different from our core curriculum, these lessons allow students to interact with Recipient stories and the core values in a condensed time setting.

#### Military Holidays

Many of our lessons can be used in the days leading up to or on military holidays. Additionally, our website features lists of Recipients connected to several events which offer opportunities for your students to research Recipients independently or as part of a class activity.

- September 11: Patriot Day/National Day of Remembrance  
Lessons A9, B4, B11, C11, D2, D5, D13, and D15
- November 11: Veterans Day  
Lessons B1, D11, D16, and D17
- December 7: National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  
Lesson D1 and <https://www.cmohs.org/recipients/lists/pearl-harbor-day-recipients>
- March 25: Medal of Honor Day  
Lessons A3, A7, A9, and A10
- Last Monday of May: Memorial Day  
Lessons C13, C14, C15, and C16
- June 6: D-Day Remembrance Day  
Lesson B17 and <https://www.cmohs.org/recipients/lists/d-day-medal-of-honor-recipients>

## Heritage Months

Medal of Honor Recipients come from many different backgrounds, and our website features lists of Recipients connected with several recognized heritage months. During those months, you can have students research Recipients on these lists or watch videos of Recipients from these groups as a class.

- Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (May):  
<https://www.cmoths.org/recipients/lists/asian-pacific-islander-recipients>
- Black History Month (February):  
<https://www.cmoths.org/recipients/lists/black-african-american-recipients>
- Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 – Oct. 15):  
<https://www.cmoths.org/recipients/lists/hispanic-latino-recipients>
- Jewish American Heritage Month (May):  
<https://www.cmoths.org/recipients/lists/jewish-recipients>
- Native American Heritage Month (November):  
<https://www.cmoths.org/recipients/lists/native-american-indian-recipients>

## Elective Course/Clubs

Create an elective course or an after-school club that focuses on the Medal of Honor Character Development Program. Start with the Introductory section lessons and from there teachers can select lessons from any section within the curriculum. We recommend alternating between different core value focused lessons with the culminating assignment being a research paper or project focused on a specific Recipient or Recipients within a specific conflict. It is recommended to do 1-2 CDP lessons per week. Instructor can invite guest speakers, incorporate group service activities that serve local communities, read various novels and biographies that showcase the six core values, focus on leadership activities, current event problem solving, and history and geography of military conflicts and wars. Alternatively, the culminating assignment can be a community service project focused on the veteran community.

## Other Applications

**Alternative Discipline** – Have students who are struggling with discipline issues take time to watch Recipient videos or research their stories. Hold a one-on-one discussion with the student about the struggles the Recipients faced and how they overcame them.

**Leadership** – Have your school, club or team leaders do one of our leadership focused lessons as part of their training – C2, C8, C12, D15