

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- College athletes and their non-athlete peers reported use of social media to express an opinion and signing a petition about a social or political issue
- Both college athletes and college students reported high levels of volunteering, but student-athletes reported volunteering two times the rate of their non-athlete peers
- Volunteering and community service was influenced by the campus context for college athletes and non-athletes
- For universities interested in increasing their overall student body’s civic engagement through volunteerism, the campus models used to promote varsity athlete volunteerism may be useful with other student groups

To translate the interest and awareness for social issues that athletes demonstrated into more active civic engagement, political voice, and electoral voice behaviors, campus programming must be paired with opportunities to develop problem solving skills and reflection.

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. How frequently do varsity athletes at my institution volunteer through athletic department programs, campus programs, or service learning?
2. Do college athletes and college students vary in their civic engagement activities at my campus?
3. How do civic, electoral, political events foster or influence activism among students on my campus? Among varsity athletes at my institution?



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