**Opening Activity or Discussion**

Introduce the purpose of the day.

Recognize that some or many of the members may have been very young at the time when 9/11 happened in 2011 so their memory may not be as strong.

Present the timeline of tragedies that occurred on September 11, 2001.

Talk briefly about the National Day of Service – how it came about and its purpose.

With the option below, the activity can be done first individually where each participant takes some time to reflect individually and then it can stop there or be shared in a pair or shared in the larger group.

Ask participants to think back to that day and talk about “What's one thing you remember thinking?” and “What's one thing you remember feeling?” OR If you don’t remember much of that day, talk about what you think about as our country remembers this day in our history.

Next, say: “We’ve asked you to spend time thinking about September 11, 2001 on this specific day of Service and Remembrance or close to the day. We know a lot has happened between now and then…so we’re going to look at 1 image and a short video as a way further into discussion.

**Clarification Questions**

**Image – Make sure each member has in front of them the image and have participants process these questions and steps:**

Individually, take a moment to look at the picture and note what comes to mind - what are some of the things you are first drawn to? What do you see?

Ask for 1 or 2 people who are willing to try and describe, as literally as possible, the photograph, without judging or evaluating it.

* How would you describe what’s there for someone who can’t see it? You can ask others to add to the description if necessary (“Anything he/she missed?”).

Then:

What’s in your head when you look at this particular picture?

* Thoughts/feelings/questions?
* What’s a word or phrase that comes to mind?

You can ask people to share in the large group by going around in the circle or have people share as they feel comfortable.

**Video**

*Before showing the video, ask participants to write down things that stand out, pay attention to the original definition that they see, and be prepared to discuss what they watch and listen to afterwards .If they want, encourage them to take notes.*

**Clarification Questions**

1. Following are a series of questions you can pick from to help digest the video, in concert with the image, to get people talking more comfortably before the larger questions of significance and implication occur:
2. What happened in the video?
3. What did you see differently from the first image we looked at and talked about earlier?
4. How did they define hero?
5. In your own words, what is a hero?
6. What theory did the one boater talk about that he chooses to live by?
7. What elements of human compassion did you see?
8. How many people were rescued by the boats?
9. What did you notice about the people who owned or drove the boats?
10. What values did you see play out in what happened?
11. How do you think people were feeling at that time who were there during the 9/11 events?

**Significance Questions**

Following are a series of questions you can pick from to help think about the “so what” of the video and image:

* What triggers us to step forward?
* On the flip side, what prevents us from stepping forward?
* What does it mean to be “good”?
* What does it mean to be “American”
* What theories do you live your life by?
* What are the factors that regularly separate us from one another or prevent us from interacting with one another? What prevents us from interacting and working with others?
* What is required for us to be “safe” with one another?
* Who in our country today does not feel safe? Anyone specifically that you have encountered in your year of service to date?

**Implication Questions**

Following are a series of questions you can pick from to help think about the “now what” of the video and image:

* What can you do, as members, to support the people you serve in “stepping up” and being a “good American”?
* Should we keep the 9.11 story alive and if so…How can we keep the story alive?
* What should we remember?
* How should we act?
* What is something positive that can come out of this day?
* What good deed or ritual can you do to honor those who died, experienced loss or gave support on 9/11?

**Closing Reflection, Questions or Activity**

What follows below can be done as individual reflections, pair share, and large group share – which option you choose varies on time, group feel, participants in the group, number of participants, etc.

“We’ve asked you to spend time talking about that day 16 years ago, along with what came after and what you remember now. In our final time together, we want to talk about what comes next, what you envision.

Taking a cue from the world of community organizers, the world as it is vs. the world as it should be…

* What do you want people doing and talking about on 9/11/2022?
* What is one change or difference you’d like to see?
* What should we be talking about 10 years from now?
* What change, or difference, came up in your reflection or discussion?
* What are you hopeful about?
* What are you less hopeful about?

As you leave, and think about the discussions we’ve just had, I’d like to ask – for one word or phrase – **what should come next?** What should result from this kind of discussion?

And finally, what commitment can you make to support the vision of this day of service – to engage individuals to consider and act upon a “good deed”.