

Building America's Teammates

Coaches know how to grow *athletes*.
Let's help coaches grow *citizens*.

Student athletes are leaders, both on campus and in their communities. But what makes them ready to lead? We expect great things from them both on and off the field of play, yet most of our student athletes don't have access to any kind of training in the skills they'll need to be active, engaged and empowered leaders who make our nation a better place to live. What they need from us is a strong foundation in understanding who they are, what they care about, and how to take an active part in making a positive impact on their communities. In other words, they need to develop as both players and citizens.

Building America's Teammates is a nonpartisan, accessible, scalable, coach-friendly program that helps all athletes see themselves as capable and confident participants in a democratic, thriving society.

“This isn't the civics class you skipped in high school. This is about how to show up, participate, understand power, and build a better future for the common good.”

— *Baratunde Thurston, How To Citizen*

Each module provides flexible, interactive training activities coaches are used to, in three components:

Chalk Talks

Coach-led discussions, including discussion questions. Chalk Talks give you latitude to customize the material to your voice and your team.

Scouting Reports

Engaging supplemental material, like videos and take-home readings, that are helpful supporting the work you've done in the Chalk Talk.

Drills

Activities players can complete outside of team time, individually or in small groups, providing hands-on experience with the concepts and connecting players more deeply with their campuses and broader communities.

Program Design Year I

How to Citizen for Athletes with Baratunde Thurston

Building America's Teammates Pilot Year features a partnership with celebrated writer, activist, and comedian **Baratunde Thurston**, host of the award-winning podcast *How To Citizen With Baratunde*.

How To Citizen With Baratunde reimagines the word “citizen” as a verb and reminds us how to wield our collective power. So many of us want to do more in response to the problems we hear about constantly, but where and how to participate can leave us feeling overwhelmed and helpless. Voting, while critically important, simply isn't enough. It takes more to make this experiment in self-governance work.

How To Citizen is built on four pillars:

- 1 To citizen is to participate.** It's a verb, not a noun, not an adjective. To citizen is to show up.
- 2 To citizen is to invest in relationships** with others, and recognize our interconnectedness.
- 3 To citizen is to understand power,** and the various ways we can use it.
- 4 To citizen is to value the collective,** and to work towards outcomes that benefit the many — not just the few.

Pilot Program Calendar



We want YOU to be part of *Building America's Teammates!*

[Please visit the interest form](#) to sign up for updates and get involved with the Pilot Program! You can also type or copy and paste <https://bit.ly/AmericasTeammatesSignup> into your search bar.

Sincerely,
The Teams at *Building America's Teammates* and *How To Citizen*

