

Service Project Ideas

Idea 1: Book and Magazine Drive

This project can be done door-to-door in one day, or Scouts can leave door hangers and return later to collect the books and magazines. Work with a store (grocery, dry cleaners, donut shop) to collect the books over a period of time, and make arrangements with the benefiting organization prior to the collection drive.

Possible Beneficiaries:

- Daycares
- Military deployment in the Middle East
- VA Medical Center
- Inner-city School
- Christian Library International

Idea 2: Assist the Elderly in Your Community

- Participate in caroling at a nursing home.
- Collect personal items and make baskets for the elderly with no families.
- Conduct entertainment programs including skits and plays at a nursing home.
- Conduct visits and reading programs.
- Conduct reading tables for residents to be able to read sitting in a chair or in bed.
- Prepare and distribute Valentine's cards or other holiday cards.
- Visit and play games.
- Assist in snow and ice removal.
- Assist in yard work.

Idea 3: Remember Others during the Holidays

- Assist agencies that provide meals to the needy by helping them prepare and serve the meals.
- Stock shelves and carry food to vehicles at a food pantry.
- Make and donate gift boxes to be distributed by Feed the Children.
- Participate in collaborative food drives and collect donations for food pantries.

For Veterans and Memorial Day

- Place American flags on gravesites for Memorial Day
- Make and deliver thank you cards to veterans on Veterans Day

Religious Holidays

- Assist religious organizations in setting up and cleaning up exhibits and activities.
- Deliver, retrieve, and dispose of Christmas trees.
- Remove lights for residents.
- Repair lights for residents.
- Collect toys for Toys for Tots.
- Prepare and serve hot chocolate at the annual town tree lighting.
- Go caroling at a home for elderly.

- Purchase toys for a children's hospital
- Make stuffed animals, include personal notes, and donate to a children's hospital (e.g. Build-a-Bear).
- Assist with parking cars at the annual Easter pageant.
- Assemble Easter baskets and distribute to shelters.
- Assist with the palm burning before Ash Wednesday.

Thanksgiving

- Provide free coffee at rest stops on Thanksgiving weekend.

Halloween and Fall Festivals

- Assist with fall carnivals and events.
- Assist with a haunted house.
- Assist in alternative trick-or-treat events.

Idea 4: Home Repair and Maintenance

- Adopt a town after a disaster.
- Assist organizations that provide home maintenance services for those in need.
- Assist with painting a school, church or chartered organization.
- Clean a Habitat for Humanity house before a family moves in.
- Clean a local animal shelter.
- Preform janitorial duties for the chartered organization.

Idea 5: Litter Clean-up and Beautification

- Adopt-a-Road or Adopt-a-Park cleanup.
- Assist in community beautification projects, including repairing and repainting homes and sprucing up the yards of those in need.
- Litter cleanup projects.
- Beautification project at city hall.
- Cemetery cleanup and inventory.
- Cleanup and beautification of community center.
- Clean up campgrounds, a local park, river or a school parking lot.
- Clear brush from fire buffer zone.
- Clear debris and downed trees from people's yards following a disaster.
- Improve walking trails.
- Pick up trash at the chartered organization prior to or after a Scout meeting.
- Clean up the shoreline.
- Yard cleanup at an American Legion hall.
- Yard work for a senior citizen in the neighborhood.

Idea 6: Medical

- Assist in the packaging of medical supplies for developing countries.
- Assist with a blood drive.
- Collect books for a VA medical center.
- Distribute organ donor cards to the public.
- Distribute healthy living and drug abuse awareness literature.

- Provide a first-aid station at a district or council event.
- Help children make safety kits to take home and use when bicycling.
- Make “welcome home” hygiene kits for disaster victims.
- Make bandanas and pillows for cancer patients.
- Collect and donate toys for children’s hospital.
- Serve as victims for a county EMT or first responders training course.

Idea 7: Military

- Adopt a service troop and send birthday cards.
- Conduct a book drive to send to deployed service men and women.
- Send Christmas cards or be pen pals with someone in the military.
- Collect books for a VA medical center.
- Create video histories of American Legion members.
- Make and deliver thank-you cards to veterans on Veterans Day.
- Organize a movie night at a VA medical center.
- Place American flags on gravesites for Memorial Day.
- Provide telephone cards to servicemen and women.
- Clean up the yard at an American Legion hall.

Idea 8: Pets

- Assist in training search and rescue dogs.
- Clean a local animal shelter.
- Clean out and refill bird feeders at the local Audubon Society.
- Collect and crush aluminum cans to donate to an animal shelter.
- Construct duck houses.
- Construct an educational sandbox for local nature center.
- Construct owl boxes.
- Construct and install bluebird and bat houses to combat mosquitoes.
- Conduct a pet food drive.
- Provide socialization time with service dogs at part of their training.

Idea 9: Safety

- Build a fence around air conditioners on a playground for the children’s safety.
- Build a handicapped ramp access at community locations.
- Construct a walking path for children walking to school.
- Conduct a CPR training event.
- Provide a first-aid station at district event.
- Help children make safety kits to take home and use when bicycling.
- Host a bike rally to train youth on bike safety and maintenance.
- Make “welcome home” hygiene kits for disaster victims.
- Repair and repaint playground equipment.
- Serve as victims for a county EMT or first responders training course.

Idea 10: Serving Food

- Assist agencies in preparing and serving meals to the needy.
- Serve free coffee at a rest stop on Thanksgiving weekend.
- Prepare and serve hot chocolate at the annual town Christmas tree lighting.
- Set up, serve, and clean up meals at a social center.

Idea 11: Sports

- Assist with a basketball tournament.
- Assist with Special Olympics – ribbons/medals, water, etc.
- Construct a soccer field – lines, goals and benches.
- Construct bat and helmet racks for school baseball and softball teams.
- Construct a horseshoe pit in the community park.
- Hold a dodgeball tournament and donate the proceeds.
- Line and place blocks in a golf course parking lot.
- Refurbish the press box at a ball field.
- Repair and paint bleachers at a baseball or softball field.
- Host Scout field games.

Ideas for Everyday Kindness and Good Turns

Source: *The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation*

Volunteer at an agency that needs help.

Donate time at a senior center.

Wipe rainwater off shopping carts or hold umbrellas for shoppers on the way to their cars.

Give blood.

Adopt a homeless pet from the humane society.

Visit hospitals with smiles, treats and friendly conversations for patients.

Organize a Scout troop to help people with packages at the mall or grocery store.

Stop by a nursing home and visit a resident with no family nearby.

Host special programs or speakers at libraries or bookstores.

Deliver fresh-baked cookies to city workers.

Offer to answer the phone for a school secretary for 10 minutes.

Collect goods for a food bank.

Volunteer to read to students in the classroom.

Bring flowers to work and share them with a coworker.

Write notes of appreciation and bring flowers or goodies to teachers or other important people, such as the principal, nurse, custodian, and secretary.

Adopt a student who needs a friend, checking in periodically to see how things are going.

Write a note to your mother or father and tell them why they are special.

Volunteer to be a tutor at a school.

Write a thank you note to a mentor or someone who has influenced your life in a positive way.

Merchants can donate a percentage of receipts for the week to a special cause.

Give coffee to people on their way to work in the morning.

Students can clean classrooms for the custodian.

Sing at a nursing home.

Offer a couple of hours of babysitting to parents.

Have a charity day at work, with employees bringing nonperishable food to donate.

Remember the bereaved with phone calls, cards, plants and food.

Call or visit a homebound person.

Transport someone who cannot drive.

Mow a neighbor's grass.

Plant flowers in your neighbor's flower box.

Give free car washes.

Clean graffiti from neighborhood walls and building.

Have a clean-up party in the park.

Drop off a plant, cookies or donuts to the police or fire department.

Volunteer to fix up an elderly couple's home.

Give flowers or cards to be delivered with meal delivery programs.

Give toys to children at the shelter or safe house.

Give friends and family "kindness" coupons they can redeem for kind favors.

Offer to return a shopping cart to the store for someone loading a car.

Create a craft project or build a birdhouse with a child.

Give a bag of groceries to a homeless person.

Plant a tree in your neighborhood.

As you go about your day, pick up trash.

Organize a clothing drive for a shelter.

Buy books for a daycare or school.