

## Community Service Ideas for Take Action Projects

### Helping Parents in the Community

- Offer a parents' night out with free babysitting for single parents.
- Collect baby supplies for new parents with limited resources or in the military.
- Make and distribute a brochure of local services available to parents.
- Put together layettes for moms and dads with limited resources or military.

### Helping Senior Citizens

- Create a senior prom for a local senior home.
- Organize a game tournament for elderly people.
- Teach seniors your dances and ask them to teach you theirs.
- Deliver holiday meals to a senior citizen group.
- Write letters for an elderly person.
- Help seniors with their shopping.
- Help senior citizens install smoke alarms in their homes.
- Make holiday cards for people in nursing homes.
- Find older adults who want to teach quilting, knitting and other skills to youth.
- Entertain residents of a nursing home with funny skits and Girl Scout songs
- Take flowers to the home of a senior citizen.
- Learn magic tricks and teach them to kids in an after-school program.
- Organize a get-together between a nursing home and a youth center.
- Make and donate holiday decorations to a hospital or senior citizens home.
- Help an elderly neighbor decorate his or her home for the holidays.
- Hold a "family traditions" night at a local nursing home or senior center.

### Helping the Less Fortunate

- Collect household items for homeless families.
- Repair and donate toys to a shelter.
- If your community doesn't have a food bank, start one.
- Organize a drive for a homeless shelter, food bank, after-school program or other community organization.
- Trick or treat for canned goods and donate the collected items to a local charity.
- Arrange a clown performance for people with special needs.
- Clip coupons for a local food pantry.
- Donate old eyeglasses to an organization that recycles them for people with limited resources.
- Visit people who are in the hospital.
- Prepare ethnic holiday dishes for a soup kitchen.
- Volunteer at a hospital.
- Create table arrangements for a soup kitchen.
- Organize a winter coat drive.
- Donate your garden produce to a homeless shelter or food kitchen.
- Donate arts and crafts supplies to groups who can't afford them.

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- Clean and repair wheelchairs.
- Collect and donate clothes to the homeless.
- Make first-aid kits for homeless shelters.
- Build a wheelchair ramp for a person who needs one.
- Organize a canned goods drive in conjunction with a community event.
- Raise awareness for Special Olympics.
- Volunteer for Meals on Wheels.
- Collect and distribute blankets, pillows and clothing to people with limited resources.
- Decorate a tree for a shelter with small gifts.
- Find ways to fight global poverty.
- Collect and process items for disaster relief.
- Build flower boxes for Habitat for Humanity homes.
- Make sandwiches and cookies for a soup kitchen or local organization.

## Helping Kids

- Plan a book-themed party at the local library.
- Hold an event to encourage more young people to be involved in their communities.
- Organize a give center where those who cannot afford gifts can get clothes, toys and other items. This is a place where people can find gifts to give to other people.
- Organize a “walk a kid home from school” program.
- Learn how to play a game (such as chess) teach younger kids how to play it.
- Collect, repair and donate used bikes.
- Arrange to donate your old working computer to an after-school program.
- Set up a pen pal relationship with someone from another community.
- Hold a puppet show for hospitalized kids.
- Fill bags or baskets with summer games for kids and give to a parks department.
- Host a trunk or treat event
- Donate books or personal items to teens at a local juvenile detention center.
- Talk to police officers to gather after-school ideas for kids and teens in the community.
- Read stories to kids at a daycare center.
- Record readings of children’s books for kids with vision impairments or kids with parents in prison to listen to.
- Collect crazy and fun hats for kids receiving chemotherapy treatments.
- Join and help a national or local children’s advocacy group.
- Donate suitcases, backpacks or other personal items to kids in foster care.
- Start a career day at your school.
- Make a puppet show that promotes healthy living.
- Form a teen group to promote humor, fun and exercise.
- Collect toys for families who have lost their homes to fire.
- Lead a project for kids in an after-school program.
- Have a Halloween party for kids with special needs.
- Help a group of kids improve their computer skills.

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- Perform fun food science experiments with a group of younger kids.
- Tutor someone.
- Organize homework help for younger kids.
- Start an after-school literature or reading club with younger kids.
- Collect backpacks and school supplies for kids who can't afford them.
- Help conduct a day camp for younger kids.
- Start a recycling program at your school.
- Install a buddy bench.

### Gardening

- Plant a vegetable or butterfly garden for an elderly neighbor, school, food bank, or community organization.
- Demonstrate home and yard composting in your community.
- Start a composting program at your school or in your community.
- Help a local environmental group.
- Weed a public garden.
- Create a Monarch butterfly garden and distribute milkweed seeds.
- Start a seed bank for heritage seeds.
- Start a community plant exchange.
- Learn how to care for a bee hive.

### Helping your Girl Scout Community

- Plan a volunteer recognition party for your Service Unit.
- Make posters or displays promoting Girl Scouts.
- Host a Girl Scout recruitment event.
- Tell someone about what you have learned in Girl Scouts.
- Highlight your Girl Scout Troop's community service activities on a website, with a speaking engagement or community display board.
- Host a Daisy Days tea party.

### Animals focused

- Walk dogs from the local animal shelter.
- Raise a dog to assist someone with a disability through an organization such as Leader Dogs for the Blind.
- Get involved with your local humane society in controlling pet populations.
- Arrange a pet food and supply drive for the local animal shelter.
- Contact a wildlife rehabilitation center and find out what could be donated.
- Take pets to visit nursing homes or special education schools.

### Improving Parks and Outdoor Spaces

- Paint a mural.
- Organize a river, beach or park cleanup.

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- Build bird or bat houses and donate them to a nature center or park.
- Remove graffiti.
- Update the signs on and refurbish a park trail.
- Adopt an acre of rainforest.
- Test the health of the water in your local lakes, rivers or streams.
- Create a vegetable, butterfly or flower garden for a senior home, school or park.
- Educate people on the importance of planting flowering plants for bees and butterflies. Distribute seeds.
- Educate people of why grass lawns are bad for the environment.
- Plant a tree.
- Paint park benches.
- Organize a campaign to raise money for park playground equipment.
- Establish and maintain a demonstration pot or garden of native plants in a community park.
- Volunteer to be a museum guide.
- Establish a fitness course in a public park.
- Adopt a monument and keep it clean and weed free.
- Help build a memorial.
- Research campgrounds in your area and create a brochure with your results.
- Adopt a whale.
- Get permission to plant wildflowers in public rights-of-way.
- Set up and supply bird feeding stations at hospitals, schools and community sites.
- Adopt a zoo, forest, park or highway.
- Teach people about leave no trace principles.
- Paint rocks with happy messages.
- Build and install an owl house.

### Military

- Adopt a soldier through Soldier's Angels
- Send cards and letters.
- Donate time or goods to Disabled American Veterans
- Make care packages (see Operation Gratitude for guidelines).
- Place wreaths or flags on graves for holidays.
- Invite a local service person (or two) to a troop holiday dinner.
- Foster a pet for a deployed service person.
- Run a Blue Star drive (books, family fun night, summer survival).

### Sewing

- Make a quilt to give away.
- Make or Collect blankets for a local shelter or project Linus.
- Make pajamas or pillowcases for foster kids, a women's shelter, hospital, or Case for Smiles.

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- Make hats, comfort dolls or hearts for Cancer patients.
- Make capes for kids.
- Smile bags for Operation Smile.

### Sports

- Organize a team to run in a 5K race.
- Help train Special Olympics athletes.
- Host a field day.
- Run a clinic to teach girls about a sport, like lacrosse or field hockey.
- Collect used sports equipment that you can donate to families with limited resources.
- Build a playground for kids with physical disabilities.
- Map your community's bike trails.
- Start a program to recycle athletic shoes.
- Cheer and hand out water at a charity race.

### History

- Video elderly people's knowledge of local, civil rights or women's history.
- Record the inscriptions on grave markers in an old cemetery for a local genealogy society.
- Photograph a local event and donate the pictures to your local historical museum.
- Research and share historic contributions of women in your community.
- Preserve the heritage of others.
- Record and share your family traditions.
- Research your community's civil rights history and share that information with others.
- Create a pamphlet about local history for a museum.

### Literacy

- Set up a book exchange so kids can trade books.
- Become a library helper.
- Teach someone to read.
- Learn American Sign Language and teach it to others.
- Hold a book drive for a friends of the library organization.
- Build a little free library.
- Create a coloring book about an important issue.

### Community Health and Safety

- Work with the fire department on safety programs.
- Sponsor a bike-a-thon and educate kids on bike safety.
- Sponsor a health fair that offers free blood pressure, vision and hearing tests.
- Sponsor a babysitting class for a group of middle schoolers.
- Plan and present a boat, water, or pool safety event.
- Create a campaign to get families biking and walking.

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- Do a puppet show at the library on why we need to wear bike helmets.

### Civics & Government

- Create a display or flyers about a community issue.
- Adopt a new immigrant family and help them connect to the community.
- Speak to your city council about an environmental or safety issue.
- Find out how you can help people to register to vote.
- Contact your American Legion group and help decorate your town for Independence Day.
- Speak out against violence.
- Celebrate other cultures with art exhibits, performances and poetry readings.
- Make posters and displays of safe and unsafe Halloween costumes, masks and face paints.
- Organize a letter writing campaign.
- Create a display with information about proper use of fireworks.
- Work with government officials to set up a hazardous waste disposal day.
- Become an advocate for diverse cultural appreciation in your community.

### Misc.

- Teach a skill you have to another person.
- Take part in restaurant food recovery programs.
- Plan a fashion show for the public using recycled clothing.
- Make cupcakes for nurses at a local hospital or nursing home to let them know they are appreciated.