



Resource 4

Community Service Ideas for Families

One of the many benefits of service learning is that students can select a project that is meaningful to them while helping them to meet curricular objectives. Service projects can be as diverse as the students, and as unique as your community. Before students select their project, they should ask themselves if it is important to them, if it is an authentic need in the community, and if it is possible. Fifty project ideas are listed to help with this process.

Animals

- Work at or raise money for a shelter
- Match animals in shelters with families
- Care for a neighbor's pet
- Write to companies protesting animal testing
- Make and sell identification tags for dogs and cats
- Organize a lost animal search group

Children

- Read to or tutor younger children
- Organize a clothing drive for needy children
- Visit sick children
- Organize a book drive to give books to children
- Organize after-school activities for latchkey kids

Citizenship

- Organize a voter registration drive
- Support an important piece of legislation
- Organize a community poison control campaign
- Organize an event that recognizes volunteer efforts

Community Development

- Beautify a playground
- Clean up a stream bed or arroyo
- Paint and repair the homes of senior citizens or low-income residents
- Start a petition for necessary traffic signals
- Make your neighborhood safer
- Paint over graffiti

**Elderly**

- Read to the elderly
- Shop for the elderly
- Do odd jobs for the elderly
- Organize an “adoption” program for lonely elders
- Teach computer skills to the elderly
- Lead an exercise program for the elderly
- Rake leaves or shovel snow for the elderly
- Volunteer at a nursing home or hospital

Environment

- Clean up litter at school or in the neighborhood
- Organize a recycling drive
- Plant trees
- Raise money to improve a playground or park, or to repair a sidewalk
- Grow a school garden
- Help a community that has been impacted by a natural disaster

Health/Safety

- Create a presentation for how to handle health or crime emergencies
- Set up prevention groups to patrol neighborhoods
- Coordinate an after school hot line
- Organize a bike, roller blade, scooter or car seat safety demonstration
- Develop and teach a baby sitting course
- Organize a community health fair

Homeless

- Collect food, toiletries or clothing for the homeless
- Work at a soup kitchen
- Collect and distribute blankets
- Collect toys for shelters

Diversity

- Organize ethnic awareness days
- Tutor people whose second language is English
- Encourage sites around town to become wheelchair accessible
- Help people with special needs
- Develop a peer conflict mediation program