

Looking for service project ideas? Here are a few to help you get started month by month.

### **September**

September is a great opportunity to serve your own school with projects that welcome students back and get the year off to a great start:

- Host a freshman/ new student orientation
- Create handbooks for new students with tips and information on school traditions
- Place "Welcome Back" decorations throughout your school
- Give welcome gifts/ cards/ flowers/ snacks to all of your teachers
- Create student/ faculty directories- include photos, birthdays, etc.
- Offer to serve as student helpers for teachers as they set up their classrooms and plan lessons for the year
- Start a tutoring program
- Hold a voter registration drive! The last day to register is in early October.

### **October**

Halloween provides an excellent opportunity to do lots of service and have lots of fun:

- Throw Halloween Party/ carnival/ costume contest for neighborhood kids, a nursing home, or use it as a fundraiser.
- Put spooky or silly decorations all over school.
- Sponsor assembly on Trick or Treat safety for Elementary students, or create Trick or Treat safety posters for them to hang up
- Take neighborhood children trick or treating so their parents are free to pass out candy at home
- Go reverse Trick or Treating- take treats to the elderly
- Trick or treat for canned goods via the We Scare Hunger project
- If your school or some of your club members don't celebrate Halloween, you can still welcome fall with a hayride for local kids or by sponsoring a Homecoming dance.

## **November**

What an excellent time to encourage gratefulness through service! Thanksgiving is an excellent time for gratitude and- well- giving. Don't forget- it's also election and KYA season- an excellent time to promote civic engagement:

- Write Thank You notes to the people who serve you every day- school staff, the board of education, your principal, police, fire fighters, city employees, etc.
- You could even expand that idea into "Be Thankful Week"- place reminders to be thankful throughout school or start a twitter campaign
- Decorate lunch tables for the season- enjoy this time with your school family before you take a break and celebrate with your real family.
- Collect canned goods for a local food pantry or homeless shelter
- Create Thanksgiving baskets for needy families and deliver them
- Serve Thanksgiving dinner at a nursing home or a soup kitchen
- Host a Veteran's Day assembly
- Offer transportation to the polls on Election Day

## **December**

'Tis the season! The Holidays lend themselves to service, so take this opportunity to spread some cheer and make someone's day a little brighter:

- Throw a Holiday party! Nursing homes, shelters, and hospitals are excellent places to celebrate the season. You could also host a dance or party at school as a fundraiser.
- Decorate a tree for the office/ Board of Education
- Play Santa! Deliver gifts to needy families, or give small treats/ cookies to elementary students, school staff, or anyone who deserves a smile!
- Collect toys and food for families in need
- Create cards for teachers, friends, or city officials
- Go caroling
- Offer to baby-sit so parents can shop or provide gift wrapping service
- Ring bells for the Salvation Army
- Visit tree lots on Christmas Eve- decorate and deliver unsold trees to needy families

## **January**

This is a great time to center service around New Years' Resolutions- and maybe you can make a few for your community:

- Launch a campus beautification campaign- pick up trash, touch up paint, shovel snow, or deep clean those areas that tend to get forgotten.
- Share resolutions on twitter and offer to serve as someone's "accountability buddy"

- Have a coat drive and donate them to charity
- Celebrate the legacy of Dr. King with a school-wide assembly or project

## **February**

Love is in the air! Whether you're a fan of romance, or you just want to show some love to your friends and club members, take this opportunity to remind someone that they are loved:

- Deliver Valentines to school staff and officials
- Be someone's secret admirer
- Give treats or flowers to the elderly
- Sponsor a Valentines dance
- Hold a community Presidents' Day celebration
- KUNA is right around the corner- get started on your WaterStep shoe drive

## **March**

Get ready for Spring and get in the swing of KUNA season at the same time:

- Get community gardens ready for planting and help elderly community members clean up the messes winter left behind
- Organize a school-wide spring clean up- help teachers with the chores they haven't had time to do all winter
- Hold a free car wash for teachers and get rid of all that leftover salt
- Host an international festival
- Hide a "Pot of Gold" filled with Hershey's Kisses and have everyone search for it
- Host alternative spring break projects for folks who aren't leaving town
- Start your own March Madness with an intramural or community basketball tournament- this is a great way to partner with your local branch Y.

## **April**

Spring has sprung! Now get outside and enjoy the sunshine while you serve:

- Host a community Easter Egg hunt
- Do something nice for someone instead of playing tricks on April Fool's Day
- Sponsor a bicycle safety check for elementary school students
- Plant new flowers and crops in a community garden
- Hold a fund raiser to get next year off on the right foot- maybe a fun run
- Get athletic fields ready for the spring season

## **May**

You made it! Time to wrap up the year, install new leadership for your Student Y, and get ready for summer:

- Cook a meal for your Mamas and celebrate Mother's Day (started at the Y!)
- Clean up a local park
- Offer to babysit during graduation activities
- Hold an end-of-the-year banquet for your student Y or for all the clubs at school

## **Any Time Projects**

Here are some simple projects that work any time of year

- Blood drive
- Clothing drive
- Book drive
- Donate magazines to a nursing home
- Collect newspapers for an animal shelter
- Babysit for a PTA meeting
- Clean the Trophy Case
- Clean up downtown sidewalks
- Faculty talent show
- Lunchroom Workers Appreciation Day
- Appreciation day for firemen/ policemen
- Visit shut-ins with treats
- Skits for a nursing home
- Trash clean-up
- Sell concessions at school play
- Make desk sets for teachers
- Take books to prisoners
- Sponsor a drug abuse workshop
- Adopt a Grandparent
- Send cards to hospital patients
- Sponsor a community square dance
- Host a town hall meeting
- Parent appreciation dinner
- Provide refreshments for an athletic team, clean up after a home game, or clean the bus after an away game
- Rake leaves for the elderly
- Door Decorating Contest