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 Mammas 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