

School - Youth Group Project Ideas

Below you'll find some project ideas and a checklist (see page 2) to help you plan your project. Involve your school or youth group or school, or participate with other community organizations (partnering may be helpful in creating project ideas or selecting a location). If you are considering partnering with another organization, contact them first and work with them to plan your project. Happy Planning!



- Draw pictures to brighten patient hospital rooms.
- Host story hours for younger children
- Hold a blanket drive.
- Create a mentoring or tutoring program at your school.
- Organize a "senior prom" for your community's senior citizens.
- Engage youth from different neighborhoods/ cultural backgrounds in a flower or tree-planting project in a park or on side streets in each community.
- Start a recycling program in your neighborhood/school.
- Clean up a river, stream, or dump and take steps to stop whatever polluted it.
- Donate cafeteria food to a local shelter.
- Organize a youth/senior "get together." Record books on tapes for the blind.
- Organize a volunteer challenge for the clubs at your local school.
- Sponsor a poster competition to promote a drug-free lifestyle or another important community issue.
- Make/decorate knapsacks or baby quilts.
- Help sort and/or serve food.
- Hold a community-wide or neighborhood cleanup.
- Deliver free meals to homeless or homebound patients.
- Match a group mentor or classmates with "adopted" grandparents and host an event where they can spend time together.
- Plant trees to commemorate a special community occasion.
- Collect food for a local food bank.
- Collect toys for a domestic violence center or children in hospitals.
- Create a memorial garden.
- Organize a blood drive.
- Hold a fundraiser.
- Create a website to educate your school or community about an issue.
- Write to members of the armed forces serving in other countries.
- Make kits of combs, toothbrushes, shampoo etc. for homeless shelters.

Be creative! Have fun!

Checklist to help you Plan Your Project



Getting started

- Determine the project you would like to do. Can you relate it to a topic, issue, or subject you are currently involved in?
- What end result would you like to see happen for your community?
- A good project meets a real need. See the Project Idea List for some sample ideas.
- What kind of project would work well for your group?
- Consider the skills, talents, and resources of your group members.

Plan your project

- Will your project involve just your school/group or will you work with another organization or community group (parents, faculty, etc.)?
- How many youth volunteers will you need?
- Which adult, teacher, or advisor will help?
- Designate a student/youth leader/others who will be responsible for the following:
 - ✓ Recruiting volunteers
 - ✓ Arranging for supplies, if needed
 - ✓ Publicizing your involvement in the event

Give your group as much information as possible

- Make sure the members of your group know the following:
 - ✓ What are they supposed to do?
 - ✓ What time should they arrive?
 - ✓ Where will you meet?
 - ✓ Who should they report to?
 - ✓ What do they need to bring? (supplies etc. if any)
- How you will modify your project in the event of rain? (Remember, the Day of Caring takes place rain or shine. Outdoor projects may need to be modified somewhat.)

Other things to consider

- Hold a project information meeting for your group just before the Day of Caring to discuss all the details and to answer any last minute questions.
- After the day is over plan some time for feedback or reflection.
- Discuss what worked well and what improvements, if any, are needed for the future.

Thank you and follow up

- Remember to send or say thank you to all who made the project possible.
- Publicize your group's involvement in a newsletter or other student/group publication.
- Would you consider doing this type of project again? It may be fun to build a relationship or create a tradition that takes place from year to year.