

Journey to Excellence Service Project Ideas

Assist the Elderly in Your Community

Most localities have organizations serving the elderly that can assist in connecting Scouts with people in need. You may find that the people you serve were once Scouts themselves and have some interesting stories to share.

- Participate in caroling at a nursing home.
- Collect personal items and make baskets for the elderly with no families.
- Conduct entertainment programs, including skits and plays, at a nursing home.
- Conduct visits and reading programs.
- Prepare and distribute Valentine's cards.
- Assist in yard work or snow and ice removal.
- Assist in serving a meal at a Senior Center.

Community Centers

- Usher at community activities

Remember Others During the Holidays

- Adopt a needy family.
- Assist agencies that provide meals to the needy by helping them prepare & serve the meals, setting up tables/chairs or providing entertainment.
- Stock shelves and carry food to vehicles at a food pantry.
- Participate in collaborative food drives and collect donations for food pantries.

Veterans and Memorial Day

- Place American flags on grave sites for Memorial Day.
- Make and deliver thank-you cards to veterans on Veterans Day.
- Participate in a flag ceremony.

Religious Holidays

- Assist religious organizations in setting up and cleaning up exhibits and activities.
- Deliver, retrieve, and dispose of Christmas trees.
- Remove lights for residents.
- Repair and paint town holiday decorations.
- Collect toys for Toys for Tots.
- Prepare and serve hot chocolate at the annual town tree lighting.
- Go caroling at a home for the elderly.
- Purchase toys for a children's hospital.

- Assist with parking cars at the annual Easter pageant.
- Assemble Easter baskets and distribute to shelters.
- Assist with the palm burning before Ash Wednesday.

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Home Repair and Maintenance

Boys have a natural affinity for tools, but consult the Guide to Safe Scouting to know which ones may be restricted.

- Adopt a town after a disaster.
- Assist with painting a school, church, or chartered organization.
- Clean a Habitat for Humanity house before the family moves in.
- Clean a local animal shelter.
- Repaint fences at fire stations or other buildings.

Litter Cleanup and Beautification

- Adopt-a-Road/Section of Rail Trail/Open Space Trails cleanup.
- Clean Parks/Canals or Paint Fences for Lowell National Park Service
- Assist in community beautification projects, including repairing and repainting homes and sprucing up the yards of those in need.
- Litter cleanup projects.
- Beautification project at city hall.
- Cemetery cleanup and inventory.
- Cleanup and beautification of community center.
- Clean up campgrounds, a local park, river, or a school parking lot.
- Make natural play spaces or playgrounds
- Create Open Space Tours
- GPS Trail Systems
- GPS Significant Trees, fences, stone walls, bridges, bat and bird houses...
- Clear debris and downed trees from people's yards following a disaster.
- Improve walking trail.
- Yard cleanup at an American Legion hall.
- Yard work for a senior citizen in the neighborhood.
- Remove invasive species from public spaces
- Plant trees

Medical

Assist with a blood drive.

- Collect books for a VA medical center.
- Distribute organ donor cards to the public.
- Distribute healthy living and drug abuse awareness literature.
- Help children make safety kits to take home and use when bicycling.

- Make “welcome home” hygiene kits for disaster victims.
- Make bandanas and pillows for cancer patients.
- Collect and donate toys/videos/games for children’s hospital.
- Serve as victims for a county EMT or first responders training course.

Journey to Excellence Service Project Ideas

Military

- Help a veteran move.
- Do Yard Clean Up/Rake a veteran's yard.
- Clean up the yard at an American Legion hall.
- Build handicapped ramp access
- Collect books for a VA medical center.
- Create video histories of American Legion members.
- Make and deliver thank-you cards to veterans on Veterans Day.
- Organize a movie night at a VA medical center.
- Place American flags on grave sites for Memorial Day.
- Provide telephone cards to servicemen and -women.
- Collect gently used cell phones for the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program

Pets

- Clean a local animal shelter.
- Conduct a pet food drive.

Safety

- Build handicapped ramp access at community locations.
- Construct a walking path for children walking to school.
- Conduct a CPR training event.
- Provide a first-aid station at district event.
- Help children make safety kits to take home and use when bicycling.
- Host a bike rally to train youth on bike safety and maintenance.
- Make “welcome home” hygiene kits for disaster victims.
- Repair and repaint playground equipment.
- Serve as victims for a county EMT or first responders training course.

Serving Food

- Assist agencies in preparing and serving meals to the needy.
- Serve free coffee at a rest stop on Thanksgiving weekend.
- Prepare and serve hot chocolate at the annual town Christmas tree lighting.
- Set up, serve, and clean up meals at a social center.

- Have a troop or crew put on and cater a pack's blue and gold banquet.

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Sports

- Assist with a basketball tournament.
- Assist with Special Olympics—ribbons/medals, water, etc.
- Construct a horseshoe pit in the community park.
- Repair and paint bleachers at a baseball or softball field.
- Host Scout field games.
- Setup a GPS orienteering course or geocache in a public park or forest.

Wildlife

- Construct an educational sandbox for local nature center.
- Construct and install bluebird and bat houses to combat mosquitoes.
- Construct and install mason bee hotels or monarch butterfly houses.
- Construct and install wood duck or owl boxes.
- Make small mammal habitats