

Community Service



How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

- Anne Frank

Nebraska Future Business
Leaders of America

*Everybody can be great,
because anybody can serve.
- Martin Luther King Jr.*

Seasons

Summer

- ◆ Hold a 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament for three age groups: Elementary, High School, and Adult.
- ◆ Create a 4th of July float for a community parade.
- ◆ Hold a "top less" car wash where you wash everything on a car, except the top, then use the money for a community service project.

Fall

- ◆ Put on a Halloween Party for the kindergartners in the school district. The "big" kids and the "little" kids can wear their costumes. The FBLA members plan games, refreshments, and prizes. If not held in replace of trick-or-treating, teach safety tips and provide reflective bags for trick-or-treating.
- ◆ Present Halloween skits to middle school students.
- ◆ Make Thanksgiving baskets and give them to a local church to distribute.
- ◆ Work for a soup kitchen at Thanksgiving.
- ◆ Rake-and-run: Rake someone else's lawn, take care of the leaves, and run away before they have a chance to see you!

Winter

- ◆ Christmas care packages for troops. Include anything from toothpaste to Christmas lights.
- ◆ Organize a "Santa's Workshop" holiday event. Members can help take pictures of the children with Santa, hand out candy canes, and lead activity tables of crafts, treats, and child safety. With the help of an officer, children can be photographed, measured, weighed, and fingerprinted for identity purposed.
- ◆ Sponsor an Angel Tree to help underprivileged children.
- ◆ Hold a "Coat and Mitten" drive and collect gently used coats and new hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves. Donate them to a local organization to distribute them to less fortunate families, or donate them to the elementary school for students who can not afford new warm clothing.
- ◆ Hold a winter banquet for the homeless in the area.
- ◆ Set up Christmas lights at different places in the community
- ◆ Go Christmas caroling
- ◆ Scoop-and-scoot: Scoop the snow from someone else's sidewalk and run away before they have a chance to see you!
- ◆ Prepare Valentine's for Veterans

Spring

- ◆ Make May Day baskets for others.
- ◆ Organize an Easter egg hunt for community children.

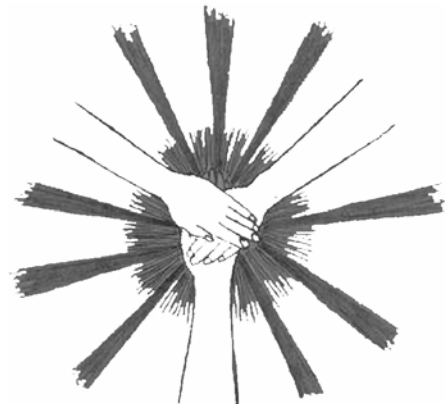
*No act of kindness, no matter
how small is ever wasted.
- Aesop*

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.
- Margaret Mead

Education and School

- ◆ Design school bracelets to promote school spirit.
- ◆ Teach computer classes to adults.
- ◆ Hold a summer reading program for elementary students.
- ◆ Coordinate a Veteran's Day program.
- ◆ Paint murals to decorate the school.
- ◆ Collect and buy enough books for each elementary student to own at least one book, which they can read over and over to encourage enthusiasm for reading. To help even more with reading, turn an empty classroom into a scene from a famous book, such as a Narnian Forest complete with a waterfall, cave, and beaver dam. Teach high school students how to choose appropriate books, and then let them team up one-on-one with elementary students to allow the younger children to read out loud once a week in the room.
- ◆ Fight childhood obesity through education, including pamphlets or commercials to teach healthy eating and proper portion sizes. Sponsor a Walk to School Day, a No Junk Food Week, an Outdoor Adventure Day, and a Family Health/Fitness Expo. At school, add exercises to the daily announcements and organize healthy fundraisers, such as bottled water and citrus fruit sales. Use the money to purchase exercise equipment.
- ◆ Create a Lending Library, where community members can donate books, and anyone can take them and either keep or return them.
- ◆ Promote good character throughout the school, with specialized projects for elementary, middle, and high school students. Create a good citizen award, maintain a character education bulletin board, and take a few minutes of a certain class to teach character traits.
- ◆ Create a historical trail to showcase sites that have historical significance, and include signs that give information about famous people or inventions from the town. Create a brochure about the trail and the historical events and give it to the Chamber of Commerce or Visitors Center.
- ◆ Create outdoor classrooms for your school. Plant native plants in a plot and create an education pond.
- ◆ Have a community bulletin board and update it monthly. Feature community-minded citizens, students, and FBLA members.

Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop.
- Dr. Dorothy Height



*You must be the change you
wish to see in the world.*
- Mahatma Ghandi

Safety

- ◆ Host MADD Week including activities each day for the entire school, such as a seat-belt drive, a guest speaker from MADD, a penny war to raise money, and the RUSH obstacle course.
- ◆ Sponsor a Health awareness week.
- ◆ Conduct safety checks and a safety fair to encourage students to wear their seatbelts. Before school one day, check each car as it comes into the school parking lot. Students not sporting their safety belt receive reminders with pretend tickets, while those wearing their belts receive lifesaver candies.
- ◆ Collect old and unused cellular phones to give to agencies to be refurbished. Phones can be reprogrammed to dial 911 and can be given to violence victims to be used in an emergency.
- ◆ Hold an event to teach children farm safety.
- ◆ To protect the older children that are in danger of being abducted, create child safety brochures and combine them with Child Identification DNA (CID) kits that include all the things needed to collect samples of DNA. The kit is contained in a baggie and includes three small baggies, a cheek swab, disposable gloves, and instructions on how to collect DNA from the cheek, hair, and fingernails. Also, teach students how to avoid and escape abductors through classroom videos or assemblies with skits.
- ◆ Help students understand the importance of Internet safety through iSafe classes, creating a parent-focused website and kid-friendly website, publishing and distributing pamphlets about dangers, and working with police departments to set up information meetings at elementary, middle, and high schools in the area.

Collection Ideas

- ◆ Create a competition between teachers and lunch groups or between homerooms.
- ◆ Hold a dodge-ball tournament and donate the money to various charities or use the money to buy food or items in bulk for a charity.
- ◆ Hold a penny war with proceeds going to a charity such as the food pantry.
- ◆ Grocery Cart Drive. Members borrow grocery carts from the local grocery store and then walk around town so people can donate items for the local food pantry.
- ◆ Hold a tailgate party before a football game and charge cans of food for admission that can be donated to food pantries or domestic violence shelters.
- ◆ Have a Trick-or-Treat Toiletry drive for groups that need those items, such as foster children or the homeless
- ◆ Hold a clothing drive and then give the clothes to families that might need them.

*Only a life lived for others
is a life worthwhile.*
- Albert Einstein

Love cannot remain by itself--it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action and that action is service.
- Mother Teresa

Elderly

- ◆ Conduct an Adopt-a-Veteran project at the Vets Home. After splitting into groups, each group can adopt a veteran and spend time with them each month. After getting to know the veteran, record one of their favorite stories either on paper or with a tape recorder. Present it to the veteran and any family members available at a special luncheon.
- ◆ Prepare an activity or gift for the elderly at a local nursing home once a month, which could include a game night, a plate of cookies, a centerpiece, or just a simple conversation.
- ◆ Make cards for residents during the holiday season.
- ◆ Create a monthly calendar for the senior center.
- ◆ Hold a senior citizen prom.
- ◆ If you have a tiara, dedicate one day each week or month to spend some time with an elderly lady. Let her wear the tiara and deem her "Queen for a Day." Let her choose activities for the day and also have some queenly activities planned, such as watching movies, painting nails, or tasting new desserts.
- ◆ Preserve the past by locating, interviewing, and videotaping the stories of World War II Veterans that can be enjoyed by future generations.

General Community Service

- ◆ Adopt-a-Highway with another school organization.
- ◆ Sponsor a community blood drive.
- ◆ Help the family of a terminally ill child by volunteering to baby-sit after school in shifts.
- ◆ Restore a special attraction or historical landmark, such as a community depot.
- ◆ Begin a recycling bin for the town to motivate the community to recycle more.
- ◆ Make "Welcome Baskets" for the new families that move into town, which include school and town brochures, as well as coupons to local businesses.
- ◆ Volunteer at a department store on Customer Appreciation Day
- ◆ Write letters to firefighters to thank them for their service.
- ◆ Paint items in the city parks.
- ◆ Sponsor a child in another country.
- ◆ Help at a boys and girls home.
- ◆ Paint addresses on the curbs in the town.

Charities

- ◆ Sell "Helping Hands" for the Center for Survivors or American Cancer Society. Paper hands are sold for 25 cents and the string of hands can be displayed around the gymnasium.
- ◆ Collect pop-tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.
- ◆ Sponsor a Make-A-Wish concert to give money to the foundation.
- ◆ Work with Habitat for Humanity and provide food and labor for all phases of building a house.

One person can make a difference and every person should try.
- John F. Kennedy