



Community Service Ideas

Engaging young people in service to their community unleashes youthful energy in ways that can solve real problems and meet vital needs. Community service can also be an important means for young people to learn new skills, gain a sense of independence, and boost self-esteem. Community service helps young people break through their segregation from the mainstream of society by giving them a chance to see the positive impact their actions can have on the larger world.

Community service activities are a great way for mentors and mentees to work together to address community needs and illustrate the theme of reciprocity that is the essence of mentoring. In devoting unpaid time to benefit others, youth are following the example of their older mentors. A goal is to encourage the mentees to make a lifelong commitment to service and volunteerism.

Some suggested activities include:

- Packing and distributing food for a food pantry
- Collecting and distributing clothes
- Collecting books, toys, and clothes for victims of natural disasters
- Helping to develop an online newsletter
- Planting and maintaining a community garden with residents from a senior center or assisted living facility
- Helping to deliver Meals on Wheels
- Volunteering for Habitat for Humanity
- Participating in the Martin Luther King Day of Service in January
- Friendly visiting with residents in nursing homes
- Chore service for older adults with limited mobility
- Pet therapy in nursing homes or children's hospitals
- Reading for the blind