

Service Projects

General tips

- Try to set up some weekly or biweekly volunteering partnerships
- Vary your projects to help recruit and retain members
- Connect with other student organizations on campus
- Find a volunteer coordinator's information on the organization's website, or fill out a form
 - Template email:
 - "Hello (name),
 - My name is (name) and I'm the (service chair/vice president/president/a member/etc) of Circle K at (school). Circle K International is an international community service organization that focuses on the three tenets of service, leadership, and fellowship. I wanted to inquire about any volunteer opportunities that you have available. I saw on your website that you have a weekly (food distribution/tutoring session/bingo night/etc), and we would love to help out with that or with anything else you may need, whether it's one time or regularly. We would really love to form a relationship with (organization) because of the positive impact you have on the community. I look forward to hearing back!
 - Thanks, (name)"

Easier/Faster Projects

- Volunteering/tutoring for after school programs at community centers, schools, local library, boys and girls club
- Food distribution, sorting, or packing at a food pantry
- Gardening or other outdoor projects at a food pantry
- Outdoor work at a university garden/arboretum or a local park such as trail maintenance, basic gardening, etc
- ESL tutoring at a local library or community center
- Volunteer at a run/walk/5k
- Blanket making for a children's hospital or homeless shelter
- Make dog/cat toys for an animal shelter, potentially out of old t-shirts
- Knit scarves/hats for the homeless
- Write letters or cards for a veterans organization
- Red Cross may offer a program near you
- Make birthday cards for homeless or at-risk youth
- Give out food like brownies or cupcakes to police officers to thank them for their work
- Motivational messages around campus: can use chalk, post-it notes, or paint rocks

- Volunteer at concession stands at college sports games or other big events by handing out refreshments to attendees
- Prepare bag lunch meals or care packages (with shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste, etc) for the homeless
- Check with local authorities to see if you can directly distribute these items
- Clean up trash in polluted areas such as beaches, parks, road sides, and waterways
- Read books and teach interactive workshops to children at elementary schools to engage them in learning
- Host a toy drive through your school or with your sponsoring Kiwanis club for families that cannot afford any
- Make bookmarks to be donated to local library or elementary schools
- Make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to feed the homeless
- Volunteer at or cheer at your local Special Olympics
- Assemble a "busy book" of coloring/activity pages for kids in the hospital
 - <http://www.crayola.com/featured/free-coloring-pages/>
- Volunteer at your local March for Babies
- Make non-slip socks for kids in the hospital or for nursing home residents with puffy paint
- Team up with your local red cross to assist in changing the batteries in fire detectors
- Make seasonal crafts for elderly homes, local schools, or children's hospitals
 - Pumpkins for Halloween, snowflakes for winter, hearts for Valentine's Day, etc.
 - Be sure to avoid religious themes
- Reach out to local shelters, schools, etc. to see if you can help teach kids to read
- Help with cleaning and maintenance at Kiwanian's homes
- Register your club for a local Relay for Life

Intermediate Projects

- Meals on wheels (typically a weekly commitment)
- Volunteer at an animal shelter, such as cleaning cages or walking dogs
 - Might require more commitment and training, depending on shelter and task
- Host a bingo night, craft night, or chore day at a retirement home
- Habitat for Humanity Build day
 - Typically costs money for volunteers
- Help students move in and out of dorms, especially helpful if members have access to a truck
- Host a clothing or food collection drive during move-out season to benefit local homeless shelters
- Plant trees in parks, along sidewalks, or anywhere that needs freshening up

- Find organizations that can help find places to plant or ask places that you know would love to have trees planted in their property
- Knit blankets (potentially out of old plastic bags) to give to the homeless
- Host a birthday party for a foster child
- Project Linus blanket-making
- Make dog treats for a local animal shelter
 - Ingredients: 1/2 cup milk, low or fat free, 1 cup peanut butter (natural or organic), 3 cups rolled oats
 - Instructions:
 - 1. Stir vigorously to combine the first two ingredients in a large bowl.
 - 2. Slowly stir (and mash) in the oats, about a 1/2 cup at a time. The mixture will be very thick.
 - 3. Scoop out the peanut butter balls with a cookie scooper. Then roll with damp hands until you create a uniform ball shape.
 - 4. Place on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper.
 - 5. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
 - 6. Donate to local animal shelter!
 - Storing & Yield: These peanut butter dog treats will last in the refrigerator for up to 3 weeks. You can freeze them for up to 4 months.
- Host a spa day at a nearby nursing home (paint nails, do hair and make-up, etc)
- Knit or crochet caps for those experiencing hair loss due to cancer treatment
- Team up with your local fire department to help in re-painting fire hydrants
- Host a car wash and donate proceeds to a charity of your choice
- Create your own birdhouse and donate it to local neighborhoods
- Host a bingo night at your local nursing home or Aktion club
- Adopt a street: most cities have an official program, but you can also do it unofficially! Host monthly clean-ups for a local street, canal, or river
- Teach hand-washing and basic hygiene in honor of the WASH project to local elementary or pre school students
 - <https://momsagainstcooties.com/hand-washing-for-kids-5-easy-steps-to-teach-hand-hygiene/>
- Trick-or-treat for the homeless: a week before Halloween, ask local neighborhood residents if they'd be willing to fill a brown paper bag with canned goods for a week, and then pick them up on Halloween! Donate them to a local homeless shelter or food pantry

More Difficult/Time Consuming Projects

- Host craft days or experiment with local elementary school students
 - <http://redtri.com/classic-science-experiments/slide/2>
- Host a lock-in on campus or a community location and host a variety of inhouse service projects
- Host a college tour and shadow day for high school senior and Key Clubbers
- Paint a mural on campus
- Start a “walking buddy” program where you go on walks with residents in a local retirement home
- Starting an after school tutoring program at a community center, school, local library, boys and girls club