

Community Service @ FWPA

Community service is work done by a person or group of people that benefits others. You do not get paid to perform community service but volunteer your time.

Performing community service has many benefits, including:

- Providing a way to help others
- Improving your community
- Meeting new friends
- Fostering a sense of purpose and connection
- Developing a life-long habit of giving back
- Gaining work experience and learning about different jobs
- Strengthening your resume or college application

There are several things to consider when choosing a community service project. A few things to consider when choosing a project are:

- **Who would you like to help?** Is there a specific group of people or a cause that you are passionate about?
- **Do you want a project that is re-occurring or a one-time event?** If you are unable to regularly devote time to community service, you may want to look for opportunities that occur only once or sporadically. If you do not have a large chunk of time to devote to a one time project, you may want to look for something that requires just a few hours a month.
- **What kind of impact do you want to have?** Some people look for projects with measurable results. For example, how many students did I tutor, how much money did I raise, how many blankets did I make, etc. Other people are looking for projects whose results are more vague. For example, I created a community garden, I helped sort food at the food bank, I played with shelter animals, etc
- **What skills would you like to gain?** Volunteering can not only help others, but it can also benefit you. You can learn skills and good habits that you may need in the future.

At FWPA, Community Service is one of our treasured traditions. We have enjoyed strong support from so many in our community and we feel proud to give back: "Passing It On".

The expected number of student service hours varies by grade level.

- 6th 10 hours
- 7th 20 hours
- 8-10th 30 hours

Students will fill out a Community Service form located in the office. A complete form includes a one-page typed essay describing the services provided and some of the growth, discovery and understanding that the student experienced. Details about Community Service and the essay are fully described on the form.

There are so many options out there for completing community service hours. On the back of this sheet, you will find many ideas to help get you started.

A word cloud of terms related to charity and volunteering, arranged in a heart shape. The words are in various colors (yellow, green, purple, brown) and sizes. The most prominent words are 'HELPING', 'VOLUNTEER', 'DONATION', 'MISSION', 'GENEROUS', 'GIVING', 'SERVICES', 'ASSISTANCE', 'CHARITY', 'LIFE', 'COMMUNITY', 'SUPPORT', 'HOPE', 'RESPECT', 'TOGETHERNESS', 'CARE', 'AID', 'MORAL', 'CONTRIBUTION', 'TEAMWORK', 'PERSON', 'ADULT', 'ASSISTED', 'RESCUE', 'TIME', 'ALTRUISTIC', 'AWARENESS', and 'MORAL'.

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COMMUNITY
CONTRIBUTION
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A Few Community Service Ideas

What other ideas do you have?

- Send cards to soldiers serving overseas
- Read books or letters to the visually impaired
- Participate in a charity race or walk
- Create a drive to help charities.
- Build a Little Free Library for your neighborhood. Although usually for books, art, food pantry, and other types also exist.
- Make blankets for charities.
- Help coach a youth sports team
- Read to residents in a nursing home
- Deliver groceries and/or meals to elderly neighbors
- Make birthday cards for the elderly
- Perform a concert at a senior center
- Volunteer at an animal shelter
- Find ways to help your faith based community
- Update signs along a nature trail
- Build flower boxes for Habitat for Humanity houses
- Become a tour guide at a local museum
- Clean up vacant lots
- Give free music lessons to school children
- Babysit children during a PTA meeting
- Organize an egg hunt in your neighborhood
- Tutor children after school
- Organize games or activities for children in hospitals or who are visiting hospitalized relatives
- Put on performances for children in hospitals or elderly in nursing homes
- Teach computer skills to the elderly
- Organize a family day for residents of a retirement home and relatives to play games
- Rake leaves, shovel snow for the elderly
- Ask residents of a retirement home about their lives, and record their stories
- Start a butterfly garden in your community
- Foster animals for local shelters
- Collect grocery coupons and gift cards to donate to local food bank or shelter
- Help local historical societies digitize files
- Create a neighborhood newspaper

Local Organization Contact information

Tacoma Rescue Mission

www.trm.org

Volunteer opportunities for ages 8 and up

Eloise's Cooking Pot

themadf.org/eloises-cooking-pot/

Limited opportunities for those under 16.

King County Libraries

www.kcls.org

Volunteer hours for ages 14 and up.

Food LifeLine

www.foodlifeline.org

Volunteer opportunities for ages 10 and up

MaST Center Aquarium

mast.highline.edu/

Opportunities for ages 10 and up

Tacoma Parks

www.parkstacoma.gov/volunteers/

Places to look for other ideas

www.dosomething.org

www.justserve.org

www.idealists.org

www.engage.pointsoflight.org

Other places to contact

Your faith-based community

Local retirement homes

Local Small Businesses

Your elementary school

Local animal shelters