



Family Friendly Volunteering

Ideas from A-Z

A FREE VolunteerSpot eBook

**GREAT SERVICE IDEAS
FOR FAMILIES,
STUDENTS, YOUTH
GROUPS, AND SCOUTS**



© 2008 by VolunteerSpot DOING GOOD just got easier

Copyright holder is licensing this under the Creative Commons License,
Attribution 2.5.

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/>



PLEASE FEEL FREE TO POST
THIS ON YOUR BLOG OR
EMAIL IT TO WHOMEVER
YOU BELIEVE WOULD
BENEFIT FROM READING IT.

Thank You!

A B C D E

Animal Shelters

Support your local humane society -- walk dogs, socialize cats, help with adoptions, collect toys, food and old towels from your friends and neighbors.

Book Drive

Collect gently used books, CDs and DVDs and donate them to schools, children's hospitals, or family shelters.

Children in Need

Put together backpacks of school supplies, fun books and comics, and gift cards for children and teens in foster care.

Decorating Hospitals during the Holidays

Help perk up those in the hospital during the holidays by making cards and seasonal art, and decorating lounges and patient rooms.

Elder Cheer

Take the time to befriend and help out an elderly neighbor. Help with chores and cooking, or surprise them with seasonal cards, crafts and well-wishes.

INVOLVING KIDS IN
SERVICE BUILDS HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES. CHILDREN
WHO VOLUNTEER ARE
MUCH MORE LIKELY TO
CONTINUE VOLUNTEERING
INTO ADULTHOOD!



VolunteerSpot Philosophy

At VolunteerSpot, we believe that volunteers should be rewarded for stepping forward and sharing their time and talents with those in need. All too often, volunteering means putting up with a certain amount of hassle or frustration – whether that is late night emails, reply-all messages, reminder phone calls, or searching for a parking space. Our sponsors enable us to provide FREE tools that simplify volunteering powering your good work in schools and clubs, in your congregation and neighborhoods. We can't find you a parking place, but with VolunteerSpot, DOING GOOD just got easier!

F G H I J K

Food Drive

Decorate grocery bags and ask neighbors to fill them up. Think big! Local food banks often provide collection bins for schools and other public locations.

Graffiti Removal

Join other families in your neighborhood in scrubbing surfaces and painting over graffiti.

Homeless Shelters

Serving those in need by collecting clothing, toys, toiletries, and volunteering on-site.

Include Everyone

Volunteering is for children of all ages. Adapt service projects to include the very young. Involving children in decisions about volunteer projects builds personal ownership.

Join a Fundraiser

Enter fun-runs, walks, and other activities to benefit a specific cause or local nonprofit (AIDS, Autism, MS, Alzheimer's, your local library, food bank, shelter, etc.)

Keep Your City Beautiful

Participate in cleanup and beautification activities in your local neighborhood, park, and community spaces!

**VOLUNTEERING
TOGETHER STRENGTHENS
FAMILIES BY CREATING
COMMON GOALS, A
SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT,
AND IMPROVED
COMMUNICATION.**

L M N O P

Lend a Helping Hand

Each child commits to helping three neighbors over a designated week.

Mentor Children

Young children look up to older students as positive role models. Help with homework, reading and tutoring.

Nursing Home Visits

Children read stories, sing songs, and deliver greeting cards to senior citizens.

Opportunity Knocks

Volunteer with local nonprofits and community groups. Local Radio and TV stations and Volunteer Centers often have listings of help needed.

Prom Dresses

Organize a collection of prom dresses and accessories. Girls in economic need welcome a chance to dress up for homecoming and prom.



Q R S T U

Quietly Serving

Libraries always need volunteers to collect books, read to children and participate in fundraisers!

Reuse and Recycle

Organize a drop-off collection for clothes and coats, cans and bottles, bicycles, cell phones and computers.

Serve Food

Volunteers are needed all year, not just holidays, to prepare meals and feed families at shelters and community kitchens.

Toy Drive

Collect toys to donate to less fortunate children. These are welcome all year, not just during the holidays.

Underwater

Pick up trash and debris at a local creek, lake, or beach to keep the waters clean and healthy. Monitor nesting fowl and turtles to ensure their habitat is protected.



**Volunteering
together is FUN –**

Service builds character
and communities!

V W X Y Z

Voice Your Concern

Involve children in writing letters to advocate for causes you care about or to express support for disaster victims and troops abroad.

Work Party

Assemble a team to rehabilitate a less fortunate corner of your neighborhood or a tired playground and make it a better place for families.

X-ray—Volunteer at a Hospital

Hospitals love volunteers to donate craft kits, books, and time!

Yes I can!

Volunteering is great for fostering responsibility and building self-confidence in children — children learn they are capable of helping in any situation.

Zap!

Wasn't that easy? Volunteering at a young age is rewarding and builds positive service habits for life. Using **VolunteerSpot** makes it simple to organize volunteer activities with your school, friends, family, scouts and congregation!

PLEASE VISIT OUR **BLOG**
FOR MORE VOLUNTEERING
SUGGESTIONS AND TO
SHARE YOUR PROJECT
IDEAS AND STORIES.



PLAN OF ACTION

All of these ideas from A-Z need a little bit of planning and volunteer coordination to be successful.

Visit **VolunteerSpot** and use our simple, FREE web signup tool that makes volunteering easy! Thank you for making a difference in your community!



**MORE TIME FOR
MEANINGFUL WORK –
LESS BUSY WORK!**

I SPY VOLUNTEERS!
WEARING SIMILAR HATS,
SHIRTS OR VESTS MAKES
YOUR GROUP EASY TO SPOT.



SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTEERING – 5 S’S

- 1. Set Expectations** – talk to children about what they will be seeing, who they will be meeting, and what behavior is expected. Coach children in making eye contact, smiling and demonstrating respectful behavior to everyone they will be serving and working with.
- 2. Seek Permission** – What approval do you need for your volunteer activities? In some cases, like park clean up, permits may be required.
- 3. Supervise** – Keep a close eye out on children at all times.
- 4. Safety First** – Wear proper protective gear when participating in building and cleanup projects (e.g. gloves, safety glasses, vests). Are children given age-appropriate tools and chores?
- 5. Share your Stories** – Please share your experiences and successes and inspire others to make a difference. Photos, stories and ideas welcome on our [Blog](#).

THANK YOU!

Thank you for downloading this FREE eBook from **VolunteerSpot**.

We invite you to email it to your friends and post it on your website or blog.

Please visit our **Blog**, to share your personal best practices, tips, and suggestions.

