



YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT IDEAS

Senior Citizens

- Paint an empty wall in an elderly home
- Help cook/serve meals at an elderly home
- Spend a day at an elderly home (games, songs, skits, etc...)
- Raise money to purchase wheelchairs and other equipment for an elderly home
- Car wash/window wash for senior citizens living in their homes in your neighborhood
- Write letters to an elderly home
- Offer to help a senior citizen shop for groceries
- Bring plants to an elderly home and offer to take care of them
- Draw/paint pictures to decorate the walls of an elderly home/hospital
- Adopt a senior citizen or a “grand-friend” for long-term commitment
- Create toiletry kits for senior citizens
- Make greeting cards for a special holiday (Mothers/Fathers Day, New Year’s Day, a religious holiday, etc.) and give them to individuals at an elderly home
- Find out the birthdays of the residents of an elderly home and do something special for each of them, or for all those during each month for a full year

The Environment

- Clean up an empty lot
- Collect materials that could be recycled from people’s homes
- River cleanup
- Highway cleanup
- Beach cleanup
- Park cleanup
- Make art out of recycled materials and decorate institutions
- Make “no littering” signs for the streets of your neighborhood
- Study local environmental problems and construct a plan to solve it

Those With Special Needs

- Offer to help physically disabled/visually impaired people shop for groceries
- Read books and record them on tape for the visually impaired
- Offer to take visually impaired individuals to the cinema or to a play
- Spend a day at an elderly home (games, songs, skits, etc...)
- Hold a local sports day for those with special needs
- Hold a non-competitive sports day bringing those with and without special needs together
- Volunteer to help direct a play/puppet show/ skit/dance for those with special needs

Advocacy:

Organize or participate in programs concerned with changing policy and social behavior regarding:

- Human rights
- Rights of the disabled
- Rights of women
- Rights of the elderly
- Rights of children
- Protection of animals
- Protection of the environment
- Democratic elections
- Elimination of corruption

Neighborhood Enhancement

- Paint murals/beautify walls on the street
- Plant and tend flowers on the street
- Plant and tend a vegetable garden and donate the produce to an institution in need (or start/end the project and publicize it on GYSD)
- Make a playground in a park

Literacy/Learning

- Tutor a student
- Organize a used book sale and donate the money to an institution in need
- Collect new and used books to give to a hospital, orphanage, school, or library

Children

- Take a group children in need (orphans, poor, etc.) to an animal shelter or other activity place
- Bring plants to an orphanage and offer to take care of them or teach the children how to take care of them
- Read books to children in orphanages or hospitals
- Spend a day at an orphanage (games, songs, skits, etc...)
- Have storytelling sessions for children at the local public library
- Take a group of children in need to the public library for a day of activities
- Paint an empty wall with the children in an orphanage
- Help cook/serve meals at an orphanage
- Write letters to children at an orphanage or hospital
- Draw/paint pictures to decorate the walls of an orphanage or children's hospital
- Collect clothes for children in need
- Make greeting cards for a special holiday (Mothers/Fathers Day, New Year's Day, a religious holiday, etc.) and give them to children at an orphanage or hospital
- Find out the birthdays of children at an orphanage and do something special for each of them, or for all those during each month for a full year

Animals

- Help to clean up an animal shelter
- Help feed the animals at an animal shelter

Drives

- Organize a canned food drive and donate the goods to an elderly home/orphanage
- Organize a clothes drive and donate the goods to an elderly home/orphanage
- Organize a furniture drive and donate them to an elderly home/orphanage
- Organize a toy drive for children and repair/paint the toys if needed
- Set up a recycling drive or recycling center

Libraries

- Collect new and used books for a public or school library
- Organize a used book sale and donate the money to an institution in need
- Hold a storytelling session for children at a library
- Take a group of orphans or others on a fieldtrip to a local library
- Adopt a children's section of a library
- Decorate a children's section of a library
- Help organize or cover books
- Set up a long-term volunteer program at a local library (to shelve, register books, have reading sessions, themes, summer reading programs, etc...)
- Collect comfortable furniture for a children's reading section of a library
- Tutor in a study room at a public library
- Teach literacy and love of reading at a public library
- If no public library exists in the community, begin a campaign to establish a library and make sure it includes a children's section

Extras

- For schools: have your service project be connected to the curriculum of any class subject (this is called "service learning"), then write an essay about the experience
- Develop a play/skit/puppet show about a special cause and perform it to others
- Various types of fundraisers for different institutions (car wash, ...)
- Help with paperwork (stuffing envelopes...) for an organization
- Hold an introductory computer session for parents/adults
- Organize a bike-a-thon (or tricycles, roller blades, scooters) as a fundraiser
- Write and perform a discussion/lecture/play about drug and alcohol abuse or some other social issue
- Research local history and publish a guide about your community/village/city
- Spend a day serving the needs of prisoners at a prison