

Community Service Ideas by Branch

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A fundamental part of Girl Guides is community service. Service means doing something helpful without asking for or expecting a reward. Through service projects girls can have fun, learn new skills, information and provide assistance to others.

Projects should:

- stretch understanding beyond family and Unit into a wider world
- teach the joy of giving of oneself rather than giving things
- help understand the feelings and needs of others

As each branch of Guiding is a progression of skills, i.e. as we learn camping skills, we can also look at community service in the same way. What our expectation of what a Spark does for a community service should not be the same for a Guide. Below is the progression of community service that can be put into three categories:

Good Turn / Lend a Hand / Random Acts of Kindness: Being helpful to others with a positive caring attitude.

These activities would be for Sparks and Brownies.

Service Activity: An established activity that already contributes to the improvement of your community.

These activities would be for Brownies and Guides.

Service Project: A project **created by girls** that contributes to the improvement of their community through planning, preparation and execution of an event (leadership), over a period of time.

These activities would be for Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers.

The BC Program Committee and the Area Program Advisers from around BC have worked on collecting and compiling a suggested list of community service projects that have been broken down into branch specific and program related areas. If you have any community service projects that are not on this list, please email us at program@bc-girlguides.org, detailing the project and what program area and branch it falls under and we can share it with the rest of the Province. This will also be available on the BC Girl Guides website.

Sparks

(Going Outside and In My Community Keepers)

Park, beach or community Clean Up (i.e. Earth Day, Pitch In, Shoreline cleanup)	Grow flowers to give to Senior's	Purchasing mosquito nets for children in Africa
Valentine for Vets	Make Hygiene Kits for Red Cross, Shelters, Victim Services, etc.	Collecting school supplies for children in Afghanistan
Collect and donate food (Ronald McDonald House, local Food Bank, Christmas food hampers, Hike for Hunger etc.)	Attend Remembrance Day ceremonies, Candlelight ceremonies for the Legion	Make crafts/placemats for Children's ward at hospital or for Meals on Wheels
Backwards Christmas Party – girls bring wrapped gifts to leave in Santa's sack for less fortunate kids	Decorate cards for any occasion for extended care facilities, senior homes, etc.. (have the guider create a label with a message on it for the girls to include inside the card	Singing / Carolling at Senior homes or other similar places
Collect hats/socks/blankets for homeless and give to Pathfinders or Ranger to distribute	Pitch In, Earth Day and Shoreline Cleanups	Collect mittens on a Mitten Tree (instead of Christmas decorations)
Pinwheels for Peace	Recycle all items from a community centre of church that does not have a recycling program	

Brownies

Good Turns / Lend a Hand / Random Acts of Kindness

Making Thank you's for vets and giving them out at Remembrance Day ceremonies – Key to My Community	Attend Remembrance Day ceremonies, Candlelight ceremonies for the Legion – Key to My Community	Making tray favours for meal on wheels or similar organization
Grow flowers to give to Senior's - Key to Living World / Grow your Garden Badge	Decorate Christmas Trees in the lobby of a senior home or hospital	Chalking out a route for a charity run with inspiration messages

Service Activity

Park, beach or community Clean Up (i.e. Earth Day, Pitch In, Shoreline cleanup) – Key to living World	Tree Planting – Taking Part Badge	Yellow Fish Storm Drain Marking
Collect and donate food (Ronald McDonald House, local Food Bank, Christmas food hampers, Hike for Hunger etc.) – Community Counts Badge / Key to My Community	Make Hygiene Kits for Red Cross, Shelters, Victim Services etc. – Community Counts Badge / Key to My Community	Pet Food Drive – Collect food, and toys to donate to local SPCA or local animal rescue
Adopt a senior – read stories, play games or sing at a senior's home – Key to the Arts / Hurrah For Reading Badge	Pinwheels for Peace	Purchasing mosquito nets for children in Africa – Key to Me
Collecting school supplies for children in Afghanistan – Key to Me	Project Porchlight	Decorate cards to donate (for any occasion)

Guides

Green Connection Projects

This project should be at least 5 hours (choosing the activity, planning what they will do and evaluate how it went)

Adopt a Garden – senior’s garden, church garden or community garden	Collect materials/food for wild animal rescue or SPCA	Earth Day, Pitch In Canada Clean up, Shoreline Clean ups
Adopt a Street, Park or waterway for a period of time	Partner with the Cancer Society and plant daffodils in the community (City Hall, local hotel, park, or community centre) and maintain	Adopt a Park, Adopt a Stream or Highway, Tree Planting, Broom Bash,
Build a Birdfeeder’s to be placed in community etc.	Camp Clean up	Set up a batteries/toner/cell phone recycling
Project Porchlight		

Going Global Projects

Hygiene Kits for Red Cross, Disaster Relief agencies	Collecting school supplies for Afghanistan	Making boxes for units in Dominica
Collect and make school supply kits for underprivileged schools		

Supporting Your Community Projects

Community Garden	Volunteer at soup kitchen, serving or cleaning up	Sponsor a family at Christmas
Collect and donate food (Ronald McDonald House, local Food Bank, Christmas food hampers, Hike for Hunger etc.)	Book or Clothing swap	Toiletry bags for shelters/soup kitchens
Baby blankets for preemies	Adopt a “grama” at a local seniors home/centre	Camp clean ups
Boo Boo bunnies for sick children	Poppy sales	Participating in Remembrance Day ceremonies

Lady Baden Powell Award Service Projects

#3 – Project to help your Guide Unit

Maintain the patrol boxes for your unit	Make a book of favourite campfire songs	Create a game or activity to teach the rest of your unit something about Guiding (ex. A game on how to remember the Laws)
Assemble a book of games that the unit enjoys playing	Develop a Memory Book for the unit (be sure to include photos of your favourite activities)	

#4 – Major Community Service Project (at least six hours)

Book Drive for a local school/daycare centre	Making Baby Bundles for new moms	Gift wrapping at a seniors home
Making scarves/toques for homeless shelter	Manning a Guiding PR booth at a community activity	

#6 – Community Activity (at least six hours)

Create an activity booklet for brownies or sparks to teach them a skill (such as fire safety)	Making emergency preparedness kits for those in need of them (work with the Provincial Emergency Program or Fire Dept)	Expand on other activities in the Community Service section
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Pathfinders

Community Service Award Projects

Three different projects, one on each of the following themes for a total of 15 hours:

Supporting Your Community

Birthday Boxes for Food Banks	Adopt a Homeless Shelter – provide clothing, blankets, socks, food etc..	Assemble craft kits for a Guiding event
Toiletry bags for shelters/soup kitchens	Make scarves or hats from fleece and donate to shelter or deliver to homeless	Make “I’m Bored Bags” to donate to hospital
Help to serve dinner at benefit function	Run a water station or be part of the “cheering stations” at a benefit run/walk	Toy Washing at a local daycare centre or preschool
Organize a “book drive” and donate books to a local organization	Buckets of Joy – in ice cream buckets collect toys, books and art supplies	Camp cleanups, building items or painting benches etc..
Volunteer at a conference, admin support, rolling coins, stuffing envelopes	Babysitting/child care centre for PAC meetings	Volunteer at local food bank or other place that collects food
Knit beanies for babies	Make welcome kits for delivery to newborn baby girls at the hospital on Feb 22nd	Assemble baby bags for new moms that are in need of assistance

Going Global International

Penny auctions for CWFF	Hygiene kits for Red Cross/International relief	Participate / help in World partnership walk
School kits for underdeveloped countries	Make AIDS angels	Hold a craft fair and donate monies to CWFF

Environmental Awareness

Start a recycling / composting project at your school	Tree planting	Graffiti clean ups
Adopt a Tree	Adopt a waterway, clean and maintain a waterway (stream, creek, etc.)	Apply for tree planting grant
Coordinate the “yellow fish” storm drain marking program for younger units	Volunteer at local conservation centre/wildlife area	Coordinate bird and bat boxes and install
Collect items that a wildlife rescue centre can use for the care of rescued wild animals and donate them		

Leadership Projects (for Leadership option)

An additional 25 hours to plan, organize and execute three different events or projects. (5 hours of this can be used towards your Community Service Award)

Organize and Plan a Thinking Day ceremony for multiple units or a District	Camp clean ups	Graffiti clean ups
Invasive species program (broom, thistle etc..)	Help at a blood drive	Plan and run a Science Night
Plan and man a PR tent for a local PR or large local event	Participate in books on tape program	Eco project for the District or a younger unit (perhaps using Eco Pak toolkit)
Organize and run a District Halloween party	Plan and run stations for a skills day, District or unit camp or an Area event for younger girls	

Rangers

The Ranger Service Project

Project must be a total of 20 hours, including planning

<p>Making food hampers Collecting food, raising money to purchase food, make baskets, find a family to donate to or arrange to take it to a food bank, church group, seniors home, veterans centre</p>	<p>Organize a “Can”struction event Collect non-perishable foods and build a structure using them in a public place to increase awareness for the cause and after event deliver/donate items to the local food bank</p>	<p>Make and deliver sandwiches/drinks to homeless youth</p>
<p>Helping at a blood drive</p>	<p>Habitat for Humanity</p>	<p>Graffiti scrub in your community</p>
<p>Organize and run a clothing drive Collect whatever items you are looking for, ensure that all items are in good repair and clean and arrange to donate them to homeless, single moms, kids in need or other resource group that you would like to help</p>	<p>Help prepare and serve meals at a Sr. centre, soup kitchen, shelter or other community outreach organization for a period of time</p>	<p>Build benches, tables etc...for local Guide campsite</p>
<p>Organize a disaster relief drive to collect clothing etc..</p>	<p>Make AIDS angels</p>	<p>Create kits for bird/bat or Purple Marten boxes and have younger units build them</p>