

Project Ideas

- Help disaster victims by: organizing food drives, collecting clothes, helping them rebuild their community.
- Conduct "Religious Emblems Training" at a training event or roundtable (see our upcoming article in the next issue!).
- Work in a food pantry helping to prepare food for the homeless or poor.
- Organize a "sweep up" work day to get the community out cleaning a neglected part of town.
- Put on an information fair for latch key kids.
- Sponsor a basic first-aid training day with your community fire department.
- Sing Christmas carols for people in retirement homes, in your community.
- Service projects for senior or disabled residents: cleaning, painting, yard work, etc.
- Christmas tree Pick-up Program.
- Plan and execute Eagle projects which will benefit the community.
- Plan a picnic for senior citizens.
- Schedule a presentation by Operation Lifesaver to increase railroad safety awareness.
- Collect perfume and makeup for a battered women's shelters.
- Volunteer as staff for community events: parades, picnics, festivals.
- Work with your City Council on selected projects.
- Spend your summer break restoring trails in an area park.
- Work with local conservation groups in erosion control.
- Encourage your family to participate in a Student Exchange program.
- Adopt a grandparent in a retirement home.
- Make a resource list of community services and distribute it to your neighborhood.
- Build bird houses or rabbit shelters.
- Collect old art supplies and donate them to your church youth group.
- Encourage your town leadership to establish a community swan pond at a park; take care of the pond and encourage the growth of wildlife in and around it.
- Work at vacation Bible school.
- Organize a finance fair in your community to talk about personal financial management.
- Raise awareness of the Youth Protection program.
- Provide help in setting up community health screenings for: Glaucoma, Diabetes, blood pressure.
- Publish a calendar on the Internet of upcoming community events, and keep it updated.
- Adopt a few elected officials, learn about their jobs, and volunteer to help them with special projects.
- Feed and cleanup at your local Humane Society.
- Create a reading club in your Troop.
- Learn basic sign language and teach it to kids in your Cub pack.
- Volunteer as an Usber for services in your church.
- Record a welcome and "tour of the town" video for new area residents and give copies to your local library and church libraries.
- Provide refreshments to runners at a charity race.
- Help a physically or mentally challenged athlete to prepare for the Special Olympics.
- Volunteer time (as a patrol or troop) working in a Public Library.
- Do genealogical research for your family.
- Read books into a recorder and share the tapes with blind or hard of sight people.
- Go bowling with kids with special physical or mental challenges.
- Get involved with Rails to Trails.
- Awareness campaign for car seats for kids, organize a recycling event for car seats.
- Community fire safety awareness.
- Hold a neighborhood bike-a-thon or a bike rodeo.
- Volunteer to sweep snow from driveways and scrape ice from cars of elderly neighbors.

SCOUTER Magazine's Guide To

SERVICE TO AMERICA

BSA's 200 Million Hour Service Commitment

SCOUTING'S SERVICE PRINCIPLES HAVE EXISTED SINCE THE BEGINNING.

Over the years, Scouting has been associated with good turns because of the many major and national Good Turn events they have performed. Service has always been a big part of Scouting, and it was William Boyce's experience with a selfless young London Scout in 1909 that started in motion the creation of the Boy Scouts of America.

In 1909, William Boyce was lost in a dense, London fog. A young Scout approached and asked if he could help Mr. Boyce find his way. The young man took Boyce to his destination, but refused a tip, explaining it was the Scout philosophy of doing a good turn daily. Boyce had a meeting to attend, but asked if the Scout could wait for him, and then take him to meet with Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scouting movement. William Boyce was so impressed with Baden-Powell and the organization he had put together, he decided to bring the Scouting program to the United States.

During World War I, Boy Scouts were being called upon to help the war effort in many ways. Scouts were used for everything from counting Black Walnut trees (used for making gunstocks and airplane propellers), passing out pamphlets for the government, and helping the American Red Cross, to collecting peach pits for gas mask filters. Thousands of "Scout Farms" were constructed to help feed soldiers. They also organized the sale of Liberty Loan Bonds to help finance the war effort, and sold over two million bonds. Scouting's service during this time of national crisis was invaluable.

Scouts provided equally valuable service during World War II. During 1944 and 1945, President Dwight D. Eisenhower asked Scouts to help collect waste paper. The result was an astounding 318,000 tons of paper collected by 700,000 Scouts, bringing the total collected during WWII to over one-half million tons. They also began collecting aluminum and glass. Throughout the war, Scouts sold over 1.6 million defense bonds and stamps, and planted "Victory Gardens" to help feed Americans and their families.

During the 1950s, Scouts planted trees, distributed conservation posters, built bird nesting boxes, and placed over 36 million *Get out the Vote* door-knob hangers on doors across the nation. Although the war-time efforts had passed, Scouts continued to help our government, by distributing 40 million handbooks for the Office of Civil Defense Mobilization in 1958. Scouts handed out and hung over 50,000 posters in post offices across the nation.

Scouting continued to perform many major Good Turns during the sixties and seventies, including more *Get Out the Vote* campaigns, helping with the national census, and major conservation programs like S.O.A.R. (Save Our American Resources).

In 1988, the BSA initiated the first *Scouting for Food* program, a national event aimed at helping feed hungry Americans. Over one million Scouts collected 65 million cans of non-perishable food that were given to people in need. The success of this program started an annual *National Good Turn Day* that still exists today, helping feed millions of homeless and underprivileged people living in America.

Millions of Scouts have been responsible for good turns and service projects for over 85 years, resulting in a better America. The Boy Scouts of America and their 4.7 million members have a great history of helping people, and will continue through their traditions of good turns and selfless service.

All About the BSA's Commitment

WHAT IS SERVICE TO AMERICA?

In April of 1997, the Boy Scouts of America committed to providing 200 million hours of community service by its youth members, in response to the *President's Summit for America's Future*. This commits each Scout to a minimum of 12 hours of community service each year through the year 2000.

"Two hundred million hours is no small undertaking," stated John W. Creighton, Jr., volunteer president of the BSA. "However, community service is, and always has been, an integral part of the Scouting community."

The 200 million hour commitment does not include service given by adults, either, which we estimate to exceed an additional 60 million hours, considering that there is an average of one adult present for every three youth. "Our volunteer leaders are excellent role models, providing mentoring to the youth they serve," concluded Creighton.

Utilizing the Order of the Arrow, the council offices are forming *Community Service Promotion Teams* that are attending roundtables and training sessions to explain the community service program and share service project ideas with the Scout Leaders.

General Colin Powell's America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth

General Colin Powell has started an entire organization around *Service to America* with his *America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth*. (see his guest column on page 5). *America's Promise* serves as a nationwide catalyst for service to youth as well as a focal point to recognize and evaluate its progress. It urges public, private and non-profit organizations like the BSA to focus their combined talents and resources to improve the lives of our nation's youth. Thousands of corporations, nonprofit organizations, philanthropic foundations, service providers, communities and national, state and local governments, as well as many individuals have joined this nationwide alliance.

"In order to succeed and grow, young people need access to all five *America's Promise Fundamental Resources*." These five resources serve as the catalyst, changing how America approaches the issue of helping at-risk youth.

www.SCOUTER.com Launches an Online Database for Tracking Service Hours

To help measure the incredible impact that Scout service has on America, we've launched a new database at www.SCOUTER.com to provide a place for Scouts and Scouters to log their projects, past and present. This database will become an invaluable tool to the Scouting community to measure the number of hours given in service, and also as a resource for you to find new ideas for your next project. This database will also be used for tracking individual and unit progress in our *Service to America: Ring of Service* program outlined on page 10.

Among the parameters included are: project name and description, location, troop/unit, number of Scout-hours of service given, the actual time

WHAT IS SCOUTER MAGAZINE DOING?

In complete support of these goals, SCOUTER Magazine has come up with some ideas that may also help in fulfilling our commitment to the *President's Summit, America's Promise*, and the BSA. We've assembled a program that can jump-start your Scouts and your unit in providing service to your communities.

Within these 6 pages, we've identified 12 key areas that a Scout can give service. Our *Ring of Service* (see page 10) program is based on each Scout devoting a minimum of two hours in each of those twelve categories, and offers your unit its own award when at least 60% of your registered Scouts meet the requirements. Your unit and your Scouts also have the opportunity to surpass these minimums, and gain recognition for achieving even higher levels of service commitment.

Just to get you started, we've put our heads together and come up with over 150 different service project ideas, and listed them throughout the pages of this section. We also encourage you to visit our website (www.SCOUTER.com) for more information on the Service to America commitment.

AMERICA'S PROMISE 5 FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES

MENTOR:

An ongoing relationship with a caring adult – parent, mentor, tutor or coach.

PROTECT:

Safe places and structured activities during non-school hours.

NURTURE:

A healthy start

PREPARE:

A marketable skill through effective education

SERVE:

An opportunity to give back through community service