

COVER STORY: SERVICE TO AMERICA

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY

Developing service projects for your local community serves many needs and helps your community become more aware of the Scouting program. Generally speaking, this can be a wonderful experience for all involved. Every project that involves the rest of your community brings a sense of pride to your volunteers, helps the community become a better place to live, and helps solve some of the problems it faces. These types of projects get the Scouts and volunteers personally interacting with the people they help and they get to see right away how much their help is valued and appreciated. What better way to show our youth the meaning of "Service to America" than to have them help the people in their own community?

- *There are many opportunities to help the handicapped and the elderly in your community. Seek out events and centers that could use a helping hand and have your Scouts get involved.*
- *Have your Scouts gather a list of all of the community services in your town. Place them on a card with your troop number on it, and hand it out to people and homes in your community.*
- *Your Scouts can do a presentation of the BSA's Youth Protection program with video's for your local cub pack or tiger cubs. These presentations could even be expanded to non-BSA youth groups such as church youth groups, school clubs, and other youth organizations.*
- *Have your Scouts volunteer at a local children's center to play games, read, or just help teach. The Scouts will gain a true sense of responsibility and pleasure from helping these kids.*

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Health and fitness is an intricate part of the Scout Oath. "To keep myself physically strong..." means you need to be healthy and in good shape to do a lot of stuff Scouts do. You owe it to yourself to take good care of your body, to keep it nourished, strong, and able to respond to the tasks you will encounter as a Scout. This can only be done with proper care, diet, and exercise. You don't have to build bulging muscles, or be able to run ten miles, but you should be reasonable fit and strive to build your strength and endurance. Taking care of yourself also means keeping healthy. See your doctor or dentist when you need to and keep yourself and surroundings clean. You can also help others by setting the example and providing service to those in need.

- *Organize a blood drive where the Scouts help spread the word about the need for blood. Make it a fun event by "jazzing it up" with a theme or by getting local media attention.*
- *Organize a Community Health Fair where people can come and get free health screening (diabetes testing, blood pressure, eye glasses, etc.) Get local Doctors, Hospitals, and health clinics involved. Set up individual booths for each area of wellness, (i.e.: Blood Pressure Check, Eye Check, Feet, Flu Shots, Childhood shots, etc.) Have your Scouts help register and direct people to the right areas. You could even set up free children fingerprinting and drug abuse displays or perhaps entertainment while people wait (i.e.: a puppet show or live music).*
- *Many international hospitals are short on supplies. Your Scouts can encourage their doctors to send their unused samples and supplies to needy hospitals.*

SCOUTS, SERVICE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

by Bill McMillan
author of Volunteer Vacations

It has been many years since I was a Scout, but I still remember the commitment to the environment that was instilled by my troop leader, and the service projects we undertook to do our part toward saving the future. My question to you is, "Are you still doing the same old projects that you remember from when you were a Scout?"

If so, maybe it's time you tried something different. No more cleaning up the side of a highway, or participating in a yearly beach clean-up. Spread your horizons and think more globally.

How about helping restore an over-used meadow in Yosemite; monitoring a geyser in Yellowstone, or taking a bird census in Tortuguero National Park in Costa Rica. These ideas aren't as outlandish as they may first seem to you. Arranging such outings is as simple as contacting the Volunteers in the Parks coordinator at a park that interests you and your troop.

These projects will provide your troop with an opportunity to see these great natural sites in a different light, and give its members a chance to help save a small part of a natural wonder.

Just about every park system in the world, from your local county and city parks to those in such environmentally sensitive regions as Costa Rica, depends heavily on volunteers, and arranging a one- or two-week service project to them can be just as educational to your troop as taking the trip. Make a commitment to change how your Scouts view service projects, and get them

involved in finding out the wide range of projects that are available.

You don't have to go half-way across the country or around the world to participate in such a project, though, for every community has some park or natural site that uses volunteers. In my own neck of the woods a local state park uses volunteers to help protect a colony of breeding harbor seals from over-friendly tourists, and Scout troops are free to volunteer on a regular basis during the breeding season. Other parks use volunteers to map trails and report any problems that need attending to.

And it's not only parks that use hoards of volunteers to help save our environment. Other agencies that utilize volunteers extensively include the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the American Hiking Society, the Sierra Club. Local trail groups such as the Tahoe Rim Trail Committee and the Appalachian Mountain Club also depend upon volunteers to complete their missions. Volunteer coordinators for all these are more than happy to work with active groups who want to organize a short-term work project. On these projects a troop can help save an endangered species, rebuild an over-used trail, restore damaged sites, or provide dozens of other services to agencies in need of helping hands.

And don't forget such organizations as local chapters of The Nature Conservancy and The Audubon Society, as well as your local and state park systems. All of these and more can be found in my book Volunteer Vacations from Chicago Review Press.

American Hiking Society
PO Box 20160
Washington, DC 20041-2160
(301)565-6704

Appalachian Mountain Club
Volunteer Trail Opportunities
PO Box 298
Gorham NH 03581
(603)466-2721

Colorado Trail Foundation
548 Pine Song Trail
Golden, CO 80401
(303)526-0809

Costa Rica National Park Service
Volunteer Program
Apartado 10104-1000
Avenida 6 y 8, C. 25
San Jose, Costa Rica
011-506-33-45-33

National Park Service
Interior Building
PO Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127
(202) 343-6843

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, DC 20240
(703)358-2043

U.S. Forest Service
Volunteers in the National Forests
PO Box 96090, Room 1010 RPE
Washington, DC 20090-6090
(202) 205-1760

CURIOUS AND SERIOUS:

There's more in common between Colin Powell and Lord Baden-Powell than similar names!

- *In their military retirement both have undertaken major initiatives focused on the condition of the youth of their day and in the shaping of their character.*
- *Both came from humble unassuming backgrounds. Colin Powell the son of Jamaican immigrants and B-P a product of the public schools of Great Britain where his parents scarcely had the funds to send him to Charterhouse School.*
- *Both were considered cutting edge Generals who managed to break the glass ceilings of traditions: Colin Powell by becoming the first African-American to serve as the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and B-P by becoming the youngest officer in the British Army to ever have achieved the rank of Lt. General (by a margin of more than a decade over other officers of similar rank).*
- *Both Generals were so well respected that each has had statutes erected in other nations (Colin Powell in Kuwait & B-P in many countries).*
- *Both Generals were prolific authors and speakers having written best selling autobiographies: Lessons from the Varsity of Life (B-P) and My American Journey (Colin Powell).*
- *Both Generals were wooed by politicians on both sides of the political isle. B-P by both the Tories and Liberals, Colin Powell by the Democrats and Republicans. Both Generals forswore continued work in the political arena in favor of a different form of public service by working with youth.*
- *Both Generals were the subject of public attacks and rumors from the rogue nations of their day. Germany of World War I placing a bounty on B-P's head convinced he was orchestrating a master spy campaign against their nation as Great Britain defeated them in World War I and in the case of Colin Powell who has been roundly denounced by Iraq's Saddam Hussein.*
- *Both men were the benefactors of a media frenzy throughout much of their military and post military career. Always being speculated about, sought after, and both were very adapt at using that media attention as a bully pulpit for the cause that they both personally championed— the cause of the moral condition of the youth of their day.*
- *Both Baden-Powell and Colin Powell have been knighted in Great Britain. B-P by Queen Victoria and Colin Powell by Queen Elizabeth II*

BOOKS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING

160 Ways to Help the World

The theme of this book is "think globally, act locally" with 160 great ideas for young people to make a positive lasting impact on their local community. These projects are down to earth and fun and described in step by step detail so any Scout Troop, Pack or Patrol can carry them out. At the end of the book is a very comprehensive listing of resources and organizations that can help.



Item #2600 160 Ways to Help the World \$9.95

The Big Help Book—365 Ways You Can Make a Difference

At only \$3.99 every Scout should have this guide to help them *Do a Good Turn Daily*. This guide is full of resources & projects for individual Scouts, or even larger events that entire Scouting units can perform in their community.

Item #2601 The Big Help Book \$3.99

The Kid's Guide to Service Projects

At 175 pages, this is our largest & most comprehensive guide for Service Projects. No matter if you are coming up for something to do for your Star Progress Award Service Hours, or an event for the Pack to do at Christmas time you can flip through the chapters of this book and find a topic loaded with hundreds of ideas: Animals, Crime Fighting, Environment, World Friendship, Hunger, Literacy, Safety, etc. Change your community, change your world!



Item #2602 The Kid's Guide to Service Projects \$10.95

Giving & Growing – A Guide for Service Projects

(separate guides for Students and Leaders)

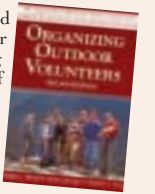
These two guides help give structure and planning so your scouts' best intentions don't go awry. The workbooks help you set goals, plan, get permission, evaluate, and budget your planned Service Project. This guide is a tremendous aid for any Scout working on their Eagle. The accompanying leader's guide gives Scoutmasters a whole new set of resources for aiding in youth Service Projects so they remain fun and effective while offering valuable learning opportunities.

Item #2603 Giving & Growing: A Student's Guide \$4.25

Item #2604 Giving & Growing: A Leader's Guide \$3.95

Organizing Outdoor Volunteers

This is a terrific low cost book that gives any Scouter great reference and how to guides for organizing outdoor workers. Building a trail or planning an O.A. work weekend takes a lot of effort and often volunteers stand around waiting for things to do, this book gives step by step tips for keeping everyone safe, happy, and involved so those Service Projects get done.



Item #3438 Organizing Outdoor Volunteers \$4.95

Volunteer Vacations

So, a Club Med vacation is not for everyone. Make social service a component of your next family vacation. This wonderful book tells how Scouting families or even an entire troop can visit exotic destinations and still be engaged in cheerful service to others.



Item #W677 Volunteer Vacations \$16.95

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