

Service Project Guide

The goal of these service projects is to serve the community and serve others, just as Jesus would want us to. Listed below are different ideas that would count as service projects. It's not just about checking off boxes, it's learning that **faith is something we DO**.

I want to see a **diverse** range of activities that showcase serving others in different ways. Only 2 activities can be the same, the remaining activities should ALL be different from one another.

- * School Clubs do not count
- * Events REQUIRED for school do not count
- * Activities that you get paid for do not count

5 Activities in the Community Ideas:

- Volunteering at the Westchester Food Pantry with the RE program
- Becoming an Altar Server
- Joining Divine Choir
- Volunteering at an animal shelter
- Becoming a greeter at Mass
- Raking leaves for your elderly neighbors
- Shoveling your elderly neighbors driveway
- Assemble bags with crayons, coloring pages, small toys to be donated to a Children's Hospital
- Put together Christmas Stockings to be donated a toy drive
- Volunteering at a library

2 Activities at Home Ideas:

- Praying a decade of the Rosary every night for a week with your parents
- Make a “prayer list” and pray for those people every day
- Ask your parents if you can complete a chore for them (something you normally would not do.)
- Help your parents babysit your siblings so that they can relax
- Learn the St. Michael prayer and pray it every night
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Here is an example of what I am looking for:

#1 In the Community: I volunteered with the RE program at the November Westchester Food pantry day

#2 In the Community: I went through my closet **myself** and donated to the Polar Express Drive

#3 In the Community: I volunteered to help backstage for a school production

#4 In the Community: I volunteered with the RE program at the December Westchester Food Pantry Day

#5 In the Community: During lunch at school, I helped my teacher clean up her classroom

#6 At Home: I asked my mom if I could help her with a chore, and I cleaned out the basement for her

#7 At Home: I introduced myself to a few people I did not know at Mass, and I asked them if there was anything I could pray about for them.. I then made a list and prayed for them for a few weeks.

Why is this acceptable?

- These activities showcase diversity and getting involved in the community and the Church
- These activities are things you may not normally do everyday

Here is an example of what I am NOT looking for:

- #1 In the Community: I donated to the Polar Express Drive
- #2 In the Community: I donated to Goodwill
- #3 In the Community: I donated to Salvation Army
- #4 In the Community: I held the door open for someone
- #5 In the Community: I said “thank you” to my bus driver
- #6 At Home: I washed the dishes for my mom
- #7 At Home: I cleaned my room

What’s wrong with this?

- Too much repetition! The goal is to get the children INVOLVED in the community, dropping off donations multiple times is great, but too repetitive.. I want a diverse range of activities.
- Holding the door open for someone, saying “thank you” to your bus driver, doing the dishes for your mom, cleaning your room, etc are all things that you should already be doing!

Some questions I’ve gotten....

I am visiting family in another country, can I do service projects there?

- Absolutely! But please complete some activities here as well.

If I am an Altar Server, would this count for my 5 Community Activities?

- It would only count for a maximum of 2 activities, but the rest of your activities should all be different from one another!

If I am volunteering for a school production, would this count for my 5 Community Activities?

- It would only count for a maximum of 2 activities, but the rest of your activities should all be different from one another!

I am helping my neighbor walk their dogs while they are away on vacation for a week, does this count?

- Yes, as long as you are not making money from it!

Does volunteering at a library count?

- Yes!

I am involved in the Student Council, does this count?

- No, clubs do not count.

If I volunteer for a Family Mass, does this count?

- No, students are required to volunteer for their special family Mass. If we do not get enough volunteers, we hand select students. If you become a consistent greeter, reader, usher- etc.. then it will count! All RE students should attend the family Mass. It is an opportunity to represent our Religious Education program!

Please have your children keep their Service Project Packet in their folders. Every few weeks I will check packets for progress and sign off/approve any service projects completed.