

Year of Service

New
projects for
2024-2025!

Participate in one, a few, or all of Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast's (GSWISE) Year of Service themed community service projects with your troop, family, or friends. Feel free to adapt the monthly themed service projects if you have another idea that works better for you!

October

Give the Gift of Hugs - Loving Hugs and Stuffed Animals for Emergencies are nonprofit organizations that give stuffed toys to kids in crisis situations. Host a stuffed animal drive at your church or school to help serve these great charities.



November

Help Your Neighbors - Use a social networking site to let neighbors know you'd like to do seasonal yard work like raking leaves, shoveling snow, putting up outdoor holiday lights, or light yard work for any senior citizens in the area.



December

Deck the Halls - Spread some holiday cheer throughout your community! Contact a tree farm about donating holiday trees to nursing homes, hospitals, or to families. Deck the halls with tiny trees! Decorating mini trees can be a fun service project to do as a group and then deliver to family shelters, group homes, or veterans hospitals.



January

Plarn for the Homeless - Put plastic bags to use! Have too many plastic bags and a penchant for knitting? Upcycle all those plastic bags by starting a "Plarn for the Homeless" (plarn is yarn made of plastic) and create waterproof blankets for local homeless shelters.



February

Book Drive - A community book drive can spread the joy of reading by providing nonprofit organizations with quality literature, textbooks, and even magazines. Along with the more traditional places to donate books, such as libraries, schools, and churches, organizations like children's hospitals, nursing homes, and homeless shelters also collect books for the benefit of their residents. You can collect books for a Little Free Library in your community, organize a summer reading program at a community center, read aloud to younger students, or arrange summer reading tutoring for elementary-age students.



March

Keep My School Beautiful - Grab your family, friends, or organize a school-wide clean up at your local school. Contact your school district buildings and grounds crew and see if there are larger projects that you can help with to improve your school.



April

Feeding Our Feathered Friends - In spring, our feathered friends need lots of food and safe places to build nests. Build bird feeders and bird houses for nursing home residents. Adopt a "grandfriend" and make regularly scheduled visits and maintain your bird feeders.



May

Thank a Teacher - During this month, we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. Let your teachers know they are appreciated and let them know how they have impacted you. Consider making them cards, organizing a staff lunch, or making gifts. You could decorate classroom doors or staff lounge, make notes of gratitude, or organize a classroom supply drive.



June

Save the Bees - In June, we celebrate National Pollinators Month. Pollinators transfer pollen from one plant to another. Protect our pollinator friends by building bee homes, planting gardens full of pollinator friendly flowers, or create and hang up posters educating the public about the importance of bees.



Optional: Go to <https://gswise.jotform.com/213556433091049> or use this QR code to complete a form to share your story with us each time you complete a service project. We might even showcase your project on our website, social media, or other online platforms!



July

Parade Clean Up Crew - "Everybody loves a parade," they say, but what about all the trash and leftover candy that gets left behind? Reach out to your local parade committee and volunteer to help with clean up after your next local parade. Some popular parades to consider: high school/college homecoming, Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and St. Patrick's Day, or 4th of July.



August

Kindness Rocks - Leave a little positivity everywhere you go! Grab your favorite art supplies and friends to create kindness rocks. Write positive messages on your rocks and then distribute them throughout your community for others to find. Some places you might leave your kindness rocks include parks, playgrounds, hiking trails, school, or library.



September

Hunger Heros - Take a bite out of hunger. Contact your local food pantry and ask what items they are most in need of, then organize a food drive. Animals need food and supplies too- reach out to a local zoo or animal shelter to see what food or items they need to care for their animals and organize a supply drive.



National Service Projects

You can also get involved with Girl Scouts of the USA's National Service Projects by planting trees, honoring our everyday changemakers, fighting hunger, taking civic action, contributing to scientific research, letter-writing, and creating Valentine's Day cards for older adults. To learn more about our National Service Projects visit: [girlscouts.org/Discover/National Service Projects](http://girlscouts.org/Discover/National-Service-Projects).

Please note: the fun patches pictured are samples and may vary based on availability at the time of purchase.

Contact us with questions about the Year of Service at 800-565-4475 or customer care@gswise.org.

Tips for Planning a Community Service Project:

- **Who will you be partnering with in the community?** Research organizations/businesses in your community that can benefit from your efforts. Find out exactly what their needs are so you can put your time into what matters most for them.
- **What is your goal?** How many people do you want to benefit from your project? If you do a collection drive, how many items do you want to collect?
- **Who else will you involve in your project?** What other people can you involve who will help you reach your goal? This could be family, friends, classmates, sister Girl Scouts, dance or sports teammates, community groups, etc.
- **What is your timeframe?** How much time will you need to plan your service project? How much time will you need to promote? How much time will you give for collecting items if you do a collection drive? Determine the best time of year for your project based on our Midwest seasons. If scheduling an event, what is the best day/time for your event?
- **What steps do you have to take?** Think of all the individual tasks you need to complete to carry out your service project. Some tasks might need to be completed before other tasks, while other tasks can be completed at the same time.
- **What supplies are needed and how much will everything cost?** Service projects don't need to have a lot of expenses, but if your project does require supplies/materials or involves fees, estimate all the costs in advance and determine how you will fund your project.
- **Are you doing a collection drive?** Did you connect with the business/organization you are collecting items for to determine exactly what types of things they need the most? What is the drop-off location where people should bring their donations to be collected (school office, church meeting room, local police station, village hall, etc.)? What are you collecting the items in (bin, box, other), and do you have access to a collection container(s)? Do you have a plan for when you'll go back to pick-up the items that are donated? And do you know what organization you will be donating the items to?
- **How will you advertise and promote?** How can you get the word out about your service project (school announcements, design and print a flyer, school newsletter, church bulletin, calling/texting friends and family, etc.)? What should all be included in your promotion?
- **How will you celebrate?** How can you share your success stories to celebrate your accomplishments?