



67 VOLUNTEER PROJECT IDEAS

Environment

- Adopt a highway, neighborhood, park or block and pick up litter
- Start a recycling campaign in your school or workplace
- Conduct an energy audit
- Plant a community garden
- Build and plant flower boxes
- Plant trees
- Clear a walking trail at a local park
- Water and maintain plant beds for a city gardening project
- Lead a gardening class to teach others how to raise plants, including produce

Education

- Create ABC and picture books for children
- Create and laminate bookmarks and distribute them at the local library
- Read to children
- Have children read to pets so they may improve their literacy skills
- Host career fairs, career readiness trainings or resume writing workshops with high school students
- Be a homework helper for a student
- Start legacy projects with outgoing students to benefit the school
- Have students create child-friendly guidebooks for immigrants and new residents that include favorite places to go, eat and shop
- Mentor a child

- Organize a neighborhood coupon exchange program
- Create oral history recordings with older adults
- Host a used book sale and donate the proceeds to an organization
- Organize a school supply drive

Economy

- Prepare taxes for low-income individuals and families
- Create a neighborhood child care cooperative
- Assist job seekers with resume preparation and computer skills training
- Organize a professional clothing, work boot or tool drive to supply job seekers with appropriate attire
- Refurbish and distribute previously owned computers
- Collect hygiene items for a local food pantry or shelter
- Knit, sew or crochet blankets and other items

Disaster Relief and Preparedness

- Distribute information about preparing disaster kits for home and work
- Create a Neighborhood Watch program and kick off the program with a potluck block party
- Sign up to serve as an on-call volunteer for local disaster organizations
- Assist emergency responders with creating wills



Health

- Design an exercise class and lead it at a local nursing home, school or other location
- Create cards for hospital patients, Meals on Wheels recipients, nursing home residents or other groups
- Collect gently used sports equipment and donate to a neighborhood center
- Host a blood drive
- Lead a game or sports activity that engages children or another group
- Create memory books or bears for families of terminally ill patients
- Visit residents of a local nursing home
- Play Wii or other games with older adults, children or individuals with disabilities

Nutrition

- Serve a meal at a soup kitchen
- Pack backpacks full of nutritious and easy-to-prepare food for children to take home on the weekends
- Host a healthy food fair
- Start a gleaning program
- Teach students about good nutrition and organize a healthy food drive for a local food pantry
- Teach low-income residents how to preserve food using canning techniques
- Create table centerpieces or placemats for a local soup kitchen
- Assist with running a farmer's market

Building Capacity for Organizations

- Complete basic maintenance projects for an organization, including painting or landscaping
- Assist with a clerical project that helps an organization function more efficiently
- Serve as a volunteer leader and organize other volunteers perform service activities
- Design scrapbooks of organization activities and successes
- Conduct a community-wide survey on behalf of an organization
- Create a brochure, newsletter or Web site for an organization
- Manage an organization's social networking Web sites
- Write a grant for a nonprofit organization
- Organize a community fundraiser

Animals

- Host an adoption day at a local business or public location for animals from a shelter
- Collect toys or food for an animal shelter
- Recruit a local veterinarian to host a clinic for animals belonging to low-income individuals and families
- Host a dog wash
- Walk dogs at a shelter
- Foster a pet in your home
- Socialize with animals in a shelter
- Enroll your pet in a pet therapy training session and visit nursing homes, schools and other facilities
- Raise money to benefit the local dog park's maintenance or to generate improvements

