

Peace through Understanding

Service-Learning Project Ideas

Some students believe that doing service work with friends is the best part of being in a Student Chapter. We will let you decide for yourself! Together with your chapter members, you should plan and implement service-learning projects throughout the year. This is your chance to do something about the issues you care most about.

We hope these ideas will help you choose meaningful service projects for your chapter!

1. **Global Youth Service Day (GYSD)** – Plan a service project for GYSD in April. Learn more about GYSD, PTPI’s participation in GYSD and download GYSD resources at www.ptpigysd.org. Create a GYSD organizing committee and use the [GYSD Action Pack](#) to implement a successful project!
2. **Operation International Children (OIC)** - Gather school supplies for OIC. Learn how you can help by downloading an action pack [here](#).
3. **Global Landmine Initiative** - Learn how you can help by downloading a Global Landmine Initiative action pack [here](#).
4. **Neighborhood Cleanup** - Help your community get clean!
5. **Millennium Development Goals (MDG)** - Address one of the eight MDGs which include poverty and hunger, universal education, gender equity, children’s health, maternal health, HIV/AIDS, environmental sustainability and global partnership. Get MDG ideas [here](#).
6. **U.S. Congressional Award** - Work together as a chapter to earn this individual award!
 - o PTPI is a proud partner of the Congressional Award Leadership Commission. The U.S. Congressional Award is an honor bestowed to students based upon completion of chosen goals and hourly requirements in the following four areas: volunteer public service, personal development, physical fitness and expedition/exploration.
7. **Carry out a book drive to give students the gift of learning** - Investigate which organizations will accept your books and ship them to those with a need for books. One such organization is [Books for Africa](#). This will reduce the amount of money needed to ship the books.

Please note: The following project ideas were created by *Youth Service America*. More details about how to carry out these projects can be found at <http://ysa.org/911>.

8. **Main Street** - Meet with local business owners to learn about the history of "Main Street" in your community. Plan a "spiffin' up" event working together with the business owners and the Chamber of Commerce to clean up litter, remove graffiti and plant fresh flower planter boxes along the street.
9. **Community Accessibility** - Research the history of the Individuals with Disabilities Act to understand difficulties that the elderly and people with disabilities may have in accessing public areas. Work with the Parks Department to modify an existing community garden or park, or to create a new garden that is accessible to all by constructing and installing ramps at strategic locations.

10. **Emergency Care Packets for the Homeless** - Find out about homelessness in your community by contacting local homeless shelters and organizations. Solicit donations and create emergency care packets for a homeless assistance organization.
11. **Gather Vegetables** - Explore the issue of hunger and its impact on many members of your community. Contact local farmers and ask if you and your chapter can collect and remove leftover produce from their fields to donate to a local food bank.
12. **Community Forum** - Investigate a community problem in your city or town, and organize a community forum on that issue, being sure to include young people on your panel. Invite the media and share the information with local government agencies, non-profit organizations, and community groups.
13. **Go Green** - Learn about the environmental impact of energy use and explore ways in which individuals and organizations can reduce their energy consumption. Conduct an energy audit of your school, community center, or senior citizen center, and share ways to reduce energy use.

Featured PTPI Student Chapter engaged in service work

PTPI's Dhaka, Bangladesh (NFYOB) Student Chapter started an English tutoring program. Every Friday, members travel to a nearby community to lead classes for underprivileged students. The classes began with five pupils and have grown to more than 30 pupils. To aid the math and English lessons, the chapter brought a blackboard and books. The chapter plans to continue tutoring with hopes to obtain better materials and funding in the future.

To learn how more chapters are actively engaged in service work, check out our latest publications [here](#).