



November 21-23, 2014

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Super Ideas Beyond Community Service

Engaging the girls in community service projects can sometimes be a challenge. The more exciting and meaningful their experiences are, the more they will want to do!

Community service is a fundamental part of Guiding. Through service projects girls can have fun, learn new skills, information and provide assistance to others.

As each year in Guides is a progression of skills (i.e. as we learn camping skills) we can also look at community service in the same way. Our expectation of what a first year Guide does for a community service should not be the same for a third year Guide.

This session is intended to explore the three community service areas of the Guide program: **Supporting Your Community; Going Global; and Green Connection.**

There are different types/levels of community service which Guides can engage in:

- **Good Turn/Lend a Hand/Random Acts of Kindness:** Being helpful to others with a positive caring attitude.
- **Service Activity:** An established activity that already contributes to the improvement of your community.
- **Service Project:** A project created by girls that contributes to the improvement of their community through planning, preparation and execution of an event (leadership), over a period of time.

Guides should progress through these different types of community service throughout their three years in Guiding.

Working together, Guides learn to solve problems and make decisions and successfully contribute to their community. They connect local concerns with global issues and gain an awareness of others. All this will serve them now and years later as they transition out of school and into the adult world!

Community service opportunities benefit both the Girl Guide and the recipient of the service. Benefits to the Girl Guide include:

- **A sense of responsibility.** By volunteering, Guides learn what it means to make and keep a commitment. They learn how to be on time for a job, do their best, and be proud of the results. But they also learn that, ultimately, we're all responsible for the well-being of our communities.
- **That one person can make a difference.** A wonderful, empowering message for Guides is that they're important enough to have an impact on someone or something else.



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- **The benefit of sacrifice.** By giving up a toy to a less fortunate child, a Guide learns that sometimes it's good to sacrifice. Cutting back on recreation time to help clean up a beach tells Guides that there are important things besides ourselves and our immediate needs.
- **Tolerance.** Working in community service can bring Guides in touch with people of different backgrounds, abilities, ethnicities, ages, and education and income levels. They'll learn that even the most diverse individuals can be united by common values.



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Internet Resources

Community

Girl Guides of Canada – Ontario Council

http://www.girlguides.ca/ON/Girl_Program/Service_Projects/ON/Girl_Program/Service_Projects.aspx?hkey=d00e3434-6b13-4ed6-bdf7-72dd2d6274af

Kids Activities – Community Service Ideas

<http://www.kidactivities.net/post/community-service-ideas-for-kids.aspx>

Going Global

GGC – National Service Project

https://www.girlguides.ca/GGC/Programs/Specialized_Programming/NSP/GGC/Programs/Specialized_Programming/National_Service_Project.aspx?hkey=f7be3836-3d05-48c7-80da-828894e95b62

WAGGGS – Take Action

http://www.wagggs.org/en/take_action

United Nations – Youth Programs

<http://www.fao.org/yunga/en/>

Plan Canada – Because I am a Girl

<http://becauseiamagirl.ca/>

Me to We

<http://www.metowe.com/>

Green Connection

GGC Tree Planting Grant

https://www.girlguides.ca/GGC/Programs/Specialized_Programming/Tree_Planting/GGC/Programs/Specialized_Programming/Tree_Planting.aspx?hkey=2ab52f31-43c7-49ca-9ed8-19011ffd2442