



generationOn

DO YOUR OWN THING GUIDE for kids

Presenting Partner





You've got energy, smarts and a great heart! And bet you care about lots of wonderful things like playing at the park or beach, making a birthday card for your mom, or snuggling a cute kitty or dog.

There's so much to care about! And guess what? There are people and animals and places all around you that could use a little bit of your help. And when you care for them too, **YOU** make our world a kinder, happier place!

There are lots of ways you could lend a hand. Would you like to know how? Awesome!

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Who is generationOn?

generationOn

believes kids like you can make the world a better place!

Our organization shares lots of ideas on how to help other people, animals and special places. That way you, your friends and your family can learn about volunteering and think of nice ways to help make your community – and the world – kinder, happier and healthier!

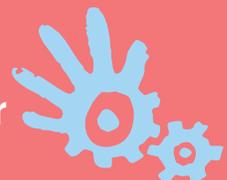
How can you help the world?

Your guide is a fun and exciting way to learn all about helping people, animals and special places outside of your family and home. This kind of caring has a special name: it's called a community service project (but we'll just call it project for short).

Community can mean all the people that live in your neighborhood or town. It can also mean folks that share something in common, like the Boy Scouts or Girls Scouts. And it includes all the animals and special outdoor places in your community!

When you do something thoughtful for your community you help make the world a better place...Yay You!

Now let's get ready for your special project.





You'll need a few supplies to get started right and stay organized!

- ✓ Do Your Own Thing Guide for Kids
- ✓ 3-ring binder, paper & tabbed dividers
- ✓ Some folders
- ✓ A computer to use with an adult



Ask your parent or caregiver to help you! Together you can read this guide, gather your supplies and organize your project binder. You can also do a little online research and go to the library together library together to learn more about your project.

Let's think of a project idea!

What do you care about a lot? It could be anything like "my family", "being outdoors", "dogs", "my bike" or "soccer". There are no wrong answers!



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Name two or three things here:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Got some ideas? Great! You've taken your first step in figuring out a cool project idea. This is important because you want to do a project that's special to you, so you'll be happy working on it and feel like you're being helpful.

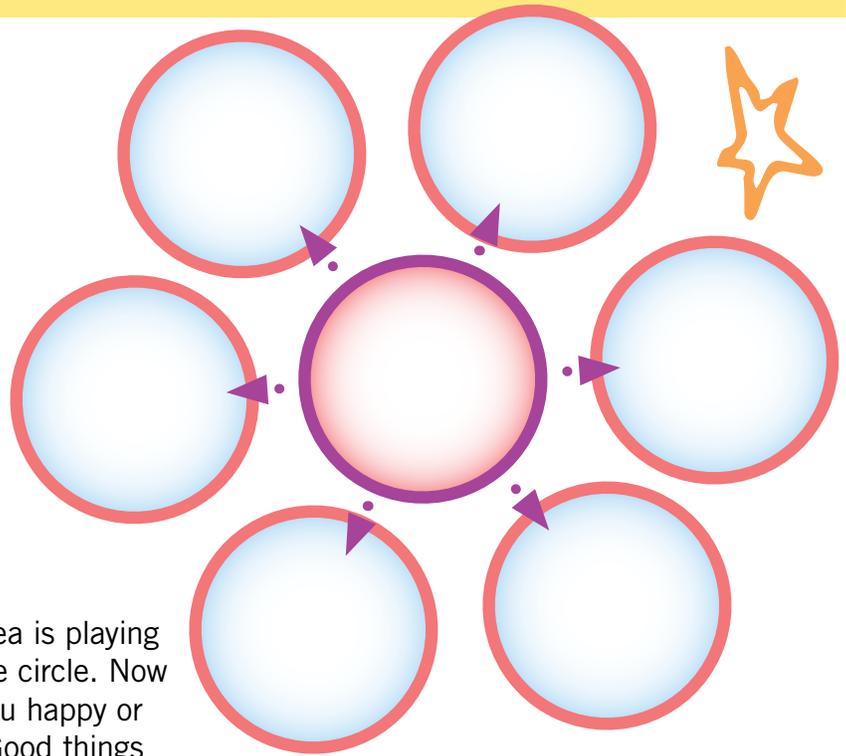
Which is your favorite idea? Not sure? That's okay. Talk it over with your parent or caregiver, sleep on it and then decide!

Project Idea Builder

Now let's dig a little deeper into your favorite idea and discover a good project idea:

Step I

1. Write your favorite idea in the middle circle
2. Think of related ideas and put those in the outer circles



Here's an example. Say your favorite idea is playing at the park, you would write it in the middle circle. Now think of things about the park that make you happy or sad (put these ideas in the outer circles). Good things might be: it has flowers and trees, the equipment is strong and safe, and the grass feels nice under my feet. A sad thing might be: there's always litter around.

Step II



1. Which idea in the outer circles do you care about the most?
2. Is there something you could do to make it better? Write down your answers!

For example, if you felt strongly that the park shouldn't have litter, list ways to make it better:

- Pick up litter yourself or get your family to help.
- Ask friends to help or maybe even your school class.
- Call the park manager and ask them to bring more trash cans so the park stays clean.

Hey kids! Brainstorm good project ideas with your parent, caregiver or friends!

Try these for starters:

- **Animals** ~ helping homeless pets
- **Parks, riversides & beaches** ~ keeping them clean
- **Children in shelters** ~ providing nice things for them
- **Senior citizens** ~ visiting them and brightening their day

Now think about **YOUR** favorite idea and complete Steps I and II. If you had help from your family and friends, is there one idea that makes you say, "I can do that!" If yes, that's so cool! You just figured out a super project idea!!

Where to do your project?

How about your street or neighborhood or town? It all depends on what kind of project you're doing.

For example you might organize a "Trash that Litter!" party and invite school friends to help pick up trash in your town park. Or you might invite kids on your street to pick up litter around your houses. You decide!

Let's name who or what your project's going to help

Who (or what!) are you helping?

How do you think your project will help these people, animals or places?

Stuck on that last question?

Ask your parent, caregiver or teacher for help figuring out the answer. You might also want to ask someone that's already providing similar help (like your local nursing home, homeless shelter or parks & recreation department) for more information and ideas!

Let's make a plan!

Got your supplies ready? Perfect! Now it's time to plan your project. That means you list all the stuff you need to do in your 3-ring binder, but in an organized way!

There are 7 steps to your project plan. Wow! Want to stay super organized from start to finish? Use your tabbed dividers and make a place for each step in your binder. Use your folders to hold information you collect.

START ON NEXT PAGE





1 Define Your Project

What is the name of your project? _____

What do you wish to achieve (these are your goals)? Be specific!

For example:

- I want to find homes for 10 dogs in my local animal shelter. _____
- My friends and I will hand out 50 flyers & hang 10 posters at local stores, schools & the library. _____
- My friends & I will make special "adopt me" vests for each dog & walk at least 1 dog each month. _____

2 Your To Do List

List all the tasks you need to do to make your project happen.

Who will do these tasks? Who will help?

For example:

- Create a flyer *me*
- Print 50 flyers *mom*
- Hand out flyers *me and three friends; mom to take us to grocery store*



3 Things You Need

List all the supplies, tools & travel you need.

How many of each?

How will you get each? Borrow, use your own, buy or get a donation?

For example:

- Ten 18" x 24" poster boards *buy*
- Markers *use my own*
- Material for 10 "adopt me" vests *donation from my grandmother*
- Dog biscuits *donation from local feed store*
- Travel to animal shelter *parents & caregivers to take turns*





4 People You Need

Look over your “to do” & “things you need” lists.

Do you need volunteers to help you?
 Friends, kids at school or in your club? Your teacher? Make up a flyer just for them! Explain what your project is, why it's important and how they can help.

Do you need a business or other group or organization to help you?
 Make up a flyer for them! Explain your project, why it's important and how they can help.



5 Money You Need

It's super important to figure out...
 (1) how much everything will cost & (2) how you will get the money to pay for it.

- Ask your parent or caregiver to help!
- For everything you need to get on your “to do” or “things you need” lists, make a chart listing each item, how many you need and how much it costs. *Already got donated items? You don't have to list them!*

- You and your volunteers can raise money to pay for your project!
 Write down 3 ideas:
1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

Add it up and figure out your total cost. That's how much money you need to pay for everything you need!

ITEM	QUANTITY	\$ COST
<i>list each item</i>		
TOTAL COST		\$

For example:

1. Have a lemonade or hot chocolate stand; sell cookies too!
2. Have a car wash.
3. Help weed neighbors' gardens.
4. Ask family, neighbors or business owners to donate money. Remember, show them a flyer first! Then follow up right away with a thank you note.

6 Tell Everybody!

Get the word out about your special project! Help more people understand why it's important and find more volunteers to help you.

- Pass out flyers and hang posters and banners where lots of folks can see them (get permission first!)
- Tell your local newspaper or radio station about your project. Invite them to special activities or fundraisers!
- Do your parents or caregiver like to use e-mail or social media? Ask them to help spread the news!

7 How Much Time?

Stay on track and make a timeline chart! List all your "to do" items and note when you need each task done. For example:

Task	Need it done by	Helpers	Done?	Notes
Call animal shelter	July 10	Mom	Yes	I can take 10 dogs for walks!
Make 5 posters	end of July	3 friends		shop for poster board
Hang up posters	August 15	Mom & friends		schedule time with mom & friends

Time to Reflect

Wow! You've done an amazing job helping your community! You put a lot of thought, hard work and caring into your project, and that's a wonderful thing to do for someone or something else.

Just think of the people you got to know and help along the way, maybe special animals or places too! You showed them kindness and made them happier, and bet you felt happier inside as well. That's what community service is all about!

Now take a little time to reflect on your experience and jot down some thoughts to these questions:

1. What new things did you learn about the people, animals or places you helped?
2. What other people did you meet? What did you learn from them?
3. What was easy to do? What was hard?
4. Did you have enough help? Did everyone work well together?
5. Did you reach your project goals?
6. Will you try this project again or do something different?



Cool Stuff

Check out more awesome project ideas!

Visit generationOn's website (www.generationon.org) and click on the "Kids" and "Families" links you'll find there!