



# Yale Day of Service

## FINDING A SERVICE PROJECT FOR YOUR GROUP

Thank you for participating in Yale Day of Service. We encourage you to share your passion about a cause or organization with your fellow alumni by organizing a service project and serving as its project coordinator. Sometimes the hardest part is finding the best match for your community's needs and what your group would like to do. This document shares some tips and resources that may help you identify a project that is meaningful, easy, and fun.

Sections include:

- Examples of volunteer matching groups
- Sample results from internet searches
- Ideas for family friendly service projects
- Examples of outdoor options in the United States and internationally
- Examples of virtual service projects

Before planning an in-person event, please review the [YAA's comment on hosting in-person events](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Volunteer Matching Groups**

Several non-profit organizations work to connect volunteers with local organizations in need of help.

#### **Volunteer Match**

"We believe everyone should have the chance to make a difference. That's why we make it easy for good people and good causes to connect." Example: [Atlanta, Georgia](#)

#### **Idealist**

"Founded in 1995, Idealist's mission is to help build a world where all people can lead free and dignified lives by inviting people everywhere to imagine, connect, and act."

#### **AARP Virtual Volunteer and Create the Good**

For adults aged 50 and older. AARP connects volunteers with organizations for both virtual and in-person service opportunities.

#### **Virtual opportunities**

#### **In person opportunities**

### **Sample Internet Searches and Results for Local Service Opportunities**

Connecting with a local service opportunity can be as simple as an Internet search.

Here are some sample results when searching for "Volunteer opportunities in [your location]"

#### **Charleston, South Carolina**



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[Chicago, Illinois](#)

[Paris France](#)

## Ideas for family friendly service projects

Search# 1-- "Family volunteer opportunities [Add your location]"	Search #2--"Volunteer with my family [Add your location]"
<p>Examples of results:</p> <p><b>Colorado</b> <a href="#">Kids Mile High</a> <a href="#">Colorado Parent</a></p> <p><b>Michigan</b> <a href="#">Little Guide Detroit</a></p> <p><b>Texas</b> <a href="#">San Antonio, Kids Out and About</a></p>	<p>Examples of results:</p> <p><b>Georgia</b> <a href="#">365 Atlanta Traveler</a> <a href="#">Hands on Atlanta</a></p> <p><b>Kansas</b> <a href="#">Wichita Mom</a> <a href="#">Wichita Mom Volunteer</a></p> <p><b>New York</b> <a href="#">Doing Good Together</a> <a href="#">Volunteer NYC</a></p>

## Outdoor Project Examples

Here are some sample results from the Internet search, "Clean up Parks in [location]."

### National

#### eBird

Go birdwatching, collect data and help a worldwide biodiversity project of birdwatchers and scientists "power new data-driven approaches to science, conservation and education." It is managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

#### Keep America Beautiful/Great American Cleanup

An annual initiative with 15,000 community events. In 2022, events occur between March 21- June 22.

#### National River Cleanup

"American Rivers fights boldly for healthy rivers and clean water – everywhere, for everyone." It offers river cleanup volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

### US States

#### **Arizona**

[Flagstaff- City Stewards Program](#)



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[Phoenix- My Phoenix My Park](#)

[Phoenix-Hands On Phoenix](#)

[Tucson-Tucson Clean & Beautiful](#)

## **California**

[Riverside-Riverside Parks & Recreation](#)

## **Nebraska**

[Lincoln - Stream Cleanup](#)

[University of Nebraska, Lincoln](#)

## **South Dakota**

[Adopt a Park Program](#)

[Black Hills National Forest](#)

## **International**

### **Clean Up The World**

A not-for-profit, non-government apolitical event that unites communities with a common focus to protect the environment. "*We support local groups and organisations to plan and conduct various activities to clean up, fix up and conserve the environment.*" It has volunteer campaigns around the world-Africa, Europe, West Asia, Asia Pacific, Latin America & Caribbean and North America.

### **Trash Hero**

The Trash Hero movement links communities around the world, including Asia, Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Europe, Australia, Latin America & the Caribbean and the U.S. to conserve the environment. It has weekly and monthly cleanups.

## **England**

[Keep Britain Tidy](#)

Non-Profit organization dedicated to making "British outdoor spaces cleaner and greener" and "improving the environment on your doorstep."

[London Clean and Green](#)

## **Japan**

[Tokyo River Friends](#)

Outdoor clean up events throughout the year

## **The Philippines**

[Clean up the Philippines](#)

A campaign of Clean Up The World



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## **Examples of Virtual Service Projects**

Organizations all over the world are offering opportunities to provide needed services through safe and accessible platforms. Consider one of these options or send us another opportunity to list on our virtual service sites.

[American Red Cross Digital Volunteers](#)

[Sleeves Up Virtual Blood Drive](#)

[FreeRice](#)

Host a Virtual Trivia Game Project and “Help Feed the World.” A family friendly online game of the Nobel Peace Prize organization, the United Nations Food Program. Each correct answer triggers a donation to the program.

[Librivox](#)

Help make public domain works available to everyone as audiobooks by volunteering to read, make book suggestions or to be a listener/editor for the proof-listening process. Works range from fairy tales to classic to government publications, such as the FBI’s “*Guide to Avoid Identity Theft.*”

[Love for our Elders](#)

Letter writing for seniors

[Smithsonian](#)

Host a Virtual Transcribe-a-Thon: Help the Smithsonian make its historic materials more readable, accessible, and text-searchable by hosting a virtual Transcribe-a-Thon to review and transcribe materials from its historic collection.

[State and National History Days](#) - online judging for student projects

[State and National Invention Conventions](#) - online judging for student projects

[Virtual Senior Card Care Project](#)

[Yale Alumni Nonprofit Alliance \(YANA\)](#)

Local options may include virtual 5K or bike rides, senior citizen call lines, digital story hour, online workouts, sing-a-longs, concerts, etc.

[Zooniverse](#)

Help researchers in a wide range of disciplines. Projects range from counting penguins and elephant seals, helping NASA scientists identify cloud types, cloud cover and sky color, to organizing 19<sup>th</sup> century seafaring documents.