



Global Youth
Service Day



2014 GYSD Project Ideas

April will be here before we know it, so start thinking of what type of Global Youth Service Day event you'd be interested in. What issues are you passionate about? To help get you started, we've listed some project ideas, categorized by: Community Renewal, Education, Environment, Disaster preparedness and response, Health, Poverty, childhood, & community hunger & homelessness, and Veterans & Military.

Some 2014 Montana milestones to consider tying into your project:

Charles M. Russell's 150th birthday
Creation of the MT Territory – 150 years
Montana women's suffrage – 100 years
Civil Rights Act in MT – 50 years
Wilderness Act – 50 years

Community Renewal

Clean up a local baseball field or recreation facility.

Raise money and [help build a Habitat for Humanity home in their community](#). Youth who are age 5 to 25 can get involved as leaders, planners, fund-raisers and press agents. Youth ages 16 to 25 can work on the construction site to help build the house.

Plant flowers and [native plants](#) in public green spaces.

[Build a new playground or improve a playground](#) or [fix up existing playgrounds](#).

Help build [KaBOOM!'s Map of Play!](#) Find, add, rate, and review playgrounds in your community. Take the Playground Challenge: Take pictures of playgrounds and win gift cards in our biweekly sweepstakes for toys, shoes, ice cream, and more. The more playgrounds you visit and share, the better chance you have to win!

Make [blankets with Maddie's Blankets](#) to donate - small blankets for animal shelters to use or large blankets for youth in foster care, shelters, or transitional housing.

Put your talent, skills and passion to work by participating in one of hundreds of [Red Cross School Clubs](#), or start a club if there isn't one in your school. Take Red Cross babysitter training, First Aid, CPR, aquatics, or water safety classes so that you'll be ready to help others in your community when you're needed.

Start a [Prescription Drug Disposal Program](#) in your area to help keep unused prescription drugs out of the water supply and out of the hands of people who might abuse them.

Disaster Preparedness & Response

Prepare your family and neighbors for emergencies and disasters by [mapping your neighborhood](#) or host a [preparedness party](#).

Be a Good Global Neighbor and [provide shelter, warmth and dignity to families](#) who have lost everything in a disaster. Raise awareness about disaster relief by holding a fund raising event for ShelterBox. Ask your friends and family to sponsor you to sleep in a tent for a night as you experience how people live after disasters.

Adopt families affected by disasters and put together an [emergency kit](#) for them to use, by hosting a donation drive. Make sure to have enough food and water for each member of the family and pets, if they have them.

Organize an [event](#) to prepare your community for wildfires and distribute [fire ready checklists](#).

April is a great time for spring-cleaning. Put together a coat drive where people can donate to [One Warm Coat](#).

Education

Run an awareness campaign to [encourage students to stay in school](#).

Help get books to kids in need! Join First Book to volunteer with a [Campus Advisory Board](#) or create a [virtual book drive](#) to get books to kids in need.

Team up with your classmates and friends to [raise awareness and money to support refugee kids](#) in schools in the U.S. and around the world.

Recruit your peers to [read with, tutor, or mentor younger students](#)... [Big Brothers Big Sisters](#) is always looking for more "Bigs," especially guys to serve as Big Brothers. Or, help connect with [your local Boys & Girls Club](#).

Donate books or host a book drive to help [WorldWide Book Drive](#) promote global literacy and education.

Build a [Little Free Library](#) to increase access to books wherever you are!

Organize an event to teach high school juniors and seniors (and their parents) [how fill out the FAFSA form to get financial aid for college](#).

[Use stopbullying.gov's Youth Leaders Toolkit](#) to contribute to anti-bullying initiatives in your school or community.

Environment

Organize a [Walk for Water with H2O for Life in your school or community](#), and raise money to help bring water to schools in developing countries.

Become a leader in your community around an environmental issue and use one of [Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoot's project kits](#).

[Organize a coastal clean-up](#) to keep our lakes, rivers, and oceans clean.

Pick up trash and clean up your neighborhood... organize a "Trash Mob" - a flash mob to pick up trash in a single location, like [this one in Baltimore](#) where 20 people cleaned up an empty lot in 30 minutes.

Use [TakingITGlobal's Climate Change Youth Guide to Action](#) to help you address the issue of climate change in your community and globally.

Go BLUE with [Water Planet Challenge](#) for a myriad of different water-related service learning projects you can adapt to your community. Start a [Meatless Monday campaign](#). Or, learn how to [reduce, reuse, and reTHINK how you use water](#).

Help [Plant Trees for Wildlife](#) or [Restore the Canopy](#) and contribute to A Billion Acts of Green® by planting trees

[Create a vertical or in-ground garden](#) that is a teaching space for families and community members to learn about their local wildlife and their wild spaces.

[Assess the energy use of your school, home, or campus](#) and help reduce your energy usage.

Implement [Students Saving Energy](#), a three-step plan that can easily be implemented by any student who wishes to lead their school on the path toward sustainability.

Did you know that each day we use 500 million straws--enough disposable straws to fill over 46,400 large school buses per year? Help us [Be Straw Free](#) and reduce the use and waste of disposable plastic straws.

[Stow It Don't Throw It!](#) Assemble and distribute personal-sized fishing line recycling bins to anglers and boaters while educating the public on sustainable fishing practices.

Health

Join the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation's efforts to reduce childhood obesity](#) and inspire your friends and families to eat healthier, move more, and make a difference in your school and community.

Work with your local Red Cross to give blood, [organize a blood drive](#), volunteer at a blood drive, [or encourage others to give blood](#).

Set up a [lemonade stand like Alex's Lemonade Stand](#) to raise much needed funds for childhood cancer research.

Get crafty and creative and make [Cards for Hospitalized Kids](#).

Host a [bone marrow registry drive](#).

Join March for Babies and [raise funds to help all babies have a healthy start](#). And, help spread the word about the serious problem of premature birth; 8 million babies are born too soon each year.

Help stop fellow students from making destructive decisions. Find service ideas, a planning guide, and media outreach templates in [SADD's community service guide](#), [SADD Serves: Youth Giving Back](#)

Help NOYS prevent teen drug abuse, teen obesity, school bullying, and teen driver distractions with Speak Out and [Make NOYS: Youth Changing the World One Voice at a Time](#)

Organize a KaBOOM! Play Day to [help build awareness for the importance of play, strengthen your community](#), and bring old-fashioned fun to your neighborhood! Or, take babysitting and kid-sitting to the extreme and organize a National Wildlife Federation day of play outside!

Take action to make [Malaria No More](#).

Half of all new HIV/AIDS infections occur among young people. Use the [TakingITGlobal HIV/AIDS Youth Guide to Action](#) and help fight this epidemic.

1 in 5 young people live with a mental illness, and many mental illnesses develop during adolescence. Use [TakingITGlobal's Mental Health Guide to Action](#) to help you address this issue.

Collect and donate DVDs to [Kid Flicks](#) so they can send a movie library of 100 DVDs to every Children's Hospital and Pediatric Department within the United States.

Poverty, Childhood & Community Hunger & Homelessness

[Plan a Bake Sale for No Kid Hungry](#) in your community and submit the proceeds to Share Our Strength's efforts to end childhood hunger in America.

[Plant a community garden to grow food to be donated](#). Then, plan to harvest in the fall on Food Day – October 24, 2013.

Youth of all ages can tackle child hunger through generationOn's "[What Will You Bring to the Table?](#)" initiative. The campaign will turn ideas and actions into 1 million meals for children facing food insecurity in the United States.

Organize a food drive, and [Move for Hunger](#) can provide you with collection boxes, fliers, and even help pick up your food donations to deliver to your local food bank.

[Go Orange for No Kid Hungry](#): Help raise awareness to the 1 in 5 kids who face hunger everyday by asking your classmates to all wear orange, the color of hunger awareness, on the same day.

Join Revolution Hunger and take part in the steps it takes to [become a Hunger Fighter](#) to help solve global hunger.

Veterans & Military

[Show your support for American military veterans.](#) Or, join [AARP's Create the Good initiative](#) to support active-duty military members and their families.

Help [Our Military Kids](#) by organizing a fundraiser, like a dance-a-thon or benefit dinner.

Get classmates and neighbors to [write letters and cards](#) to service men and women or assemble and send [care packages](#).

Collaborate with your community to create a mural with local veterans and art clubs.

Organize a community bake sale and send the proceeds to [Dogs on Deployment](#). Ask bakers to cut out cookies in the shape of dog bones.

Hold a fundraiser to support [Homes for Our Troops](#).