



## MLK Day of Service 2022: Activities, Ideas & Resources

*From AmeriCorps, the Agency's MLK Day 2021 & 2022 webinars*

**Remember: PLEASE register all projects with AmeriCorps, using #MLK in the title!**

<https://americorps.gov/newsroom/events/mlk-day>  
(People go there looking for opportunities nationwide!)

**Check out NextDoor** to help organize your neighbors for service or helping others! Nextdoor is a social app that helps you communicate with your neighbors. Download the app and add yourself to the *Help Map* to get started.

<https://blog.nextdoor.com/2020/03/18/nextdoor-launches-help-map-and-groups-to-bring-neighbors-together/>

- To organize a group of neighbors to do a service project with, start a **group**, share your mission, and then delegate and coordinate tasks, <https://nextdoor.com/login/?next=/groups/>

**One Warm Coat:** organize a coat drive in your community. One Warm Coat has partner organizations who will distribute the coats locally; in Montana, these are in Bozeman, Missoula, Anaconda, and Browning.

<https://www.onewarmcoat.org/give-warmth/hold-a-coat-drive/>

**Disaster Preparedness:** Join or start a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) in your community. Get trained and volunteer: <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/welcome-to-cert>. Search for CERTs by location here, <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/cert-find-a-program>

**Volunteer Match**, and similar sites have online volunteer opportunities that may give you ideas for your own projects, <https://www.volunteermatch.org/>

**Front Porch Food Drive:** <https://moveforhunger.org/campaigns/front-porch-food-drive>

**American Red Cross:** To get smoke detectors into homes that don't have them, participants suggested your local American Red Cross. <https://www.redcross.org/sound-the-alarm.html>

**Virtual community garden ideas:** building planter boxes for spring and summer (go through the plans, materials, and construction); educational programming on when and how to start seeds indoors, on rotational planting for harvest throughout the summer and early fall, and about creating a native plant garden. The Montana Native Plant Society is a great resource if you want to create a native plant garden: <https://www.mtnativeplants.org/>

**Transcribe for the Smithsonian or help the National Archives:** <https://transcription.si.edu/> and <https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist>

**Zooniverse:** has citizen science projects people can contribute to, <https://www.zooniverse.org/get-involved>

**Sunday Supper:** Host one on MLK Day. Ask everyone to watch a documentary, and then come together to discuss it over an in-person or Zoom dinner!

**Global Justice:** Involve youth and adults in local efforts to reduce arrest and incarceration rates of youth under 18 and in essential public services such as juvenile justice. For resources visit, <https://www.globalyouthjustice.org/get-involved/>

## Education Resources

**First Book:** Books on diversity, equity and inclusion for children: <https://firstbook.org/> & <https://diversebooks.org/>

**Study Hall:** free homework and study help by approved and qualified helpers, <https://studyhall.org/students/>

**SAMSHA:** offers many training resources for peer to peer support for mental health and recovery, <https://www.samhsa.gov/>

---

### Virtual MLK Day/Service Project Ideas

Notes by Emily Steinberg, Director, External Affairs, America's Service Commissions (ASC)

- Support Health Care Workers in Your Community - send postcards, have treats & thank you cards delivered, call local hospitals to find out what is needed, etc.
- Collection Drives - coats, socks, blankets, food, hygiene items (but partner with a local organization to deliver collected items to)
- **Write letters to first responders and military servicepeople- Operation Gratitude, etc.** (<https://www.operationgratitude.com/virtual-volunteerism/> )
- Anti-Racist Service Project ideas/resources: <https://ysa.org/antiracist/>
- Virtual Mentoring/Tutoring/Career Fairs or Trainings for Youth and Youth-Serving Organizations
- Create Project-in-a-box kits for Volunteers and/or Parents to do fun enrichment activities with their kids at home
- Host Virtual Workshops for AmeriCorps Members/Volunteers such as Civic Reflection, Direct Service, Policy Advocacy as a Pathway to Change, or other relevant topics
- Health (physical, mental, social, etc.) projects/initiatives
- Art contests (online), art therapy projects around a theme
- Play Compassion Games: <https://www.compassiongames.org/play/>
- Outdoor Clean-Ups or Gardening/Beautification projects (make sure to provide Personal Protective Equipment and safety training/protocols for volunteers)
- Find more resources and ideas from Youth Service America at <https://leadasap.ysa.org/resources/>
- Explore additional ideas and resources provided by AmeriCorps: <https://www.americorps.gov/newsroom/events/mlk-day/mlk-day-resources>
- MLK Day Social Media Countdown in January (7-10 days out - follow MLK and AmeriCorps accounts on social media for details)

Thank you & please contact the Office of Community Service with any questions   
[serve@mt.gov](mailto:serve@mt.gov) (406) 444-9077