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.


- To organize a group of neighbors to do a service project with, start a group, share you 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


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 😊😊
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