

family volunteering

time together – time to act

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Families

Families can participate in Family Volunteer Day in numerous ways. To find a Volunteer Center in your area that may already be participating in the day, call or visit 1-800-Volunteer.org. If you and your family want to organize your own activity to support the day, visit FamilyCares.org for family volunteer project ideas, educational resources, games, and much more!

Nonprofits and Businesses

Any organization that wants to mobilize its volunteers as part of this national effort is welcome to do so. Your first step is to download the Family Volunteer Day Guidebook from www.FamilyVolunteerDay.org. The Guidebook contains everything an organization may need to successfully create a Family Volunteer Day project. We recommend contacting your local Volunteer Center for partnerships or resources by calling or visiting 1-800-Volunteer.org.



AVAILABLE RESOURCES

The Family Volunteer Day Guidebook:

An online document featuring helpful information for agencies and businesses participating in the day, including fact sheets, project ideas, a sample press release, media materials, and more. It can be found at www.FamilyVolunteerDay.org.

FamilyCares.org:

The Web's leading family volunteering site designed for America's families. It features educational materials, project ideas, games for children, and more in a family-friendly format.

1-800-Volunteer.org

Volunteer Centers are conveners for the community, catalysts for social action, and key local resources for volunteer involvement. Contact your local Volunteer Center to become a volunteer and learn about opportunities to build volunteer management skills. Call or visit www.1-800-Volunteer.org.

National Family Week

Sponsored by the Alliance for Children & Families and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, National Family Week serves to recognize the role of strong families as the center of strong communities. The week begins the day after National Family Volunteer Day and provides an excellent opportunity to expand the activities of the Day beyond the weekend and into the Thanksgiving holiday. To learn more about National Family Week and how you can get involved, visit www.nationalfamilyweek.org.

Family Strengthening Neighborhood Transformation

Volunteering, especially families and neighbors volunteering together, is critical in transforming even the toughest communities to connected and supportive places where families can thrive. Find tools, templates, and ideas on how to strengthen families and transform neighborhoods through volunteering and partnering with low-income communities at www.PointsofLight.org/Neighboring.



PROJECT IDEAS

1. Create a Card

Let families create their own "thinking of you," get well, or thank you cards for a children's hospital, veterans' group or senior citizens' home. Provide paper, crayons or markers, stickers or stencils, and watch the creativity fly!

2. Weekend in the Woods

Offer a state park ranger a great deal! Provide a Saturday afternoon volunteer project (pulling weeds, painting park facilities, planting shrubs, clearing trails, etc.) in exchange for having camping fees waived for a few families.

3. Happy Trays

Many hospitals use plain paper to line the trays used to deliver meals. Get a supply of paper from a hospital and allow families to decorate those liners with cheerful messages or drawings.

4. Food Bank Fix-Up

Especially during the holiday season, food banks need assistance organizing the many donations they receive. Families can sort through canned goods and/or package them for distribution. This task can also be done at thrift shops or shelters.

5. Tidy Tombstones

City and county cemeteries usually have sections for indigent residents that are often not maintained. Families can volunteer to clean up the burial sites and might want to consider returning to map the cemetery or do landscaping.

6. Meals that Make a Difference

Many homeless shelters have programs that allow families to help prepare a meal either on-site or in the families' own kitchen. Small children can help by setting tables or by helping to serve food.

7. Adopt a Grandparent

Too many nursing home, senior citizen home, and hospital residents have no one to visit them. An Adopt a Grandparent program could be a one-time visit, a group visit, or an ongoing project.

8. Penny Drive

Let families collect pennies to help their favorite nonprofit agency. Families can also run drives for school supplies for underprivileged children, pet food for an animal shelter, or canned food for a food bank.

9. Clean It Up!

Agencies often need help with clean-up. Let families organize a "window washing," "spring cleaning," "van washing," or "yard work" day for a nonprofit agency. Arm them with cleaning supplies and let their energy take control!

10. Weekend Moms and Dads

Help divorced parents and grandparents connect with their kids and their community by sponsoring a weekend volunteer project like a park clean-up.

National Recognition in Family Volunteering

Each year, the Points of Light Foundation presents the Family Volunteer Award to honor those who have exemplified outstanding family volunteering activities performed throughout the past year. These volunteer efforts may include but are not limited to Family Volunteer Day activities. More information can be found at www.PointsofLight.org/awards.



President's Volunteer Service Awards

The President's Volunteer Service Award, an initiative of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, honors America's volunteers and encourages even more Americans to get involved. Local Certifying Organizations recognize volunteers with this award for their sustained commitment to service. Visit www.presidentialserviceawards.gov to learn more about the award or to register as a Certifying Organization.

Family Volunteer Day

Time together — Time to act

Please inform us about your projects! All responses received by November 11 will be entered to win an exciting gift!

I'm planning a project with my:

Business Family Nonprofit School

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Number of people involved _____

Brief description of project _____

Email FamilyVolunteering@PointsofLight.org.

Drop this card in the mail today!



Family Volunteer Day is sponsored by the **Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network**. The Foundation & Network engage more people more effectively in volunteer service to help solve serious social problems. Today, the Points of Light Foundation provides leadership at both the local and national levels to organize and mobilize American's greatest resource — its millions of volunteers — to tackle our nation's more serious social problems. Through a network of more than 370 Volunteer Centers, in partnership with more than 80,000 nonprofits businesses, and organizations — the Points of Light Foundation connects nearly 2.5 million people to volunteer opportunities.

Through our partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, we are helping to build stronger neighborhoods and families through volunteering or “neighboring.”



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY IF
MAILED IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY CARD

FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 18586 WASHINGTON, DC

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

Youth & Family Outreach
The Points of Light Foundation
1400 Eye Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005-6526

2008 - November 22	2007 - November 17	2006 - November 18
National Family Volunteer Day		

Each year, Family Volunteer Day is strategically held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving as a means of “kicking off” the holiday season of giving and service. Family Volunteer Day is sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation. To learn more, visit www.PointsOfLight.org.

Time together – Time to act



Points of Light Foundation
1400 I Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005-6526

Presorted
First Class
US Postage
PAID
Suburban, MD
Permit No. 3905

family
volunteer day
time together – time to act



November 18, 2006