



Girl Scouts[®]
Where Girls Grow StrongSM

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Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital

GSCNC
4301 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008
Telephone: 202-237-1670
Toll Free: 800-523-7898
TTY: 202-274-2160
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Service Opportunity Catalogue

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Introduction

So...your school has posted your requirements for community service. And you have to complete these hours in order to graduate...So what's the big deal? You have an advantage over many of your peers. You are a Girl Scout and part of the world's largest organization for girls. Service has always been a premier part of the Girl Scout program. As a Brownie Girl Scout did your troop sing holiday songs to residents in an area nursing home? As a Junior Girl Scout, did your troop participate in a food drive or a poster contest for water conservation? That was service! No need to panic. You've done it before, and as a Girl Scout, you will do it again. This time, you can pick a project based on your own interests and needs, or you can plan a troop project that will fulfill each girl's individual requirements. In the pages to follow are some helpful tips and resources to help you pave the way to fulfilling those service hours, gliding into graduation, and following your dreams. So relax...and have fun!

Tips

Start out by reading Program Standard 5 in *Safety-Wise*. This standard will give you some ideas about the meaning of Girl Scout Service. It is also important to read up on Policies of Girl Scouts of the United States of America in the *Blue Book of Basic Documents 2000, Leader's Digest*. If you don't have a copy, ask your troop leader or Service Unit Manager!

Your experiences with community service could lead to many things in the future such as career development, hobbies, and networking. It is important to spend some time thinking about what you would like to get from the experience aside from fulfilling a requirement.

- Make a list of your goals.
- Make a list of your interests.
- Do you see a natural link between an interest and a goal?
- Now make a list of community service ideas that may correspond with one of your interests and/or goals.
- Where do you think help is needed in your community?
- Are there types of service that don't appeal to you?

Once you have a list of possibilities you need to think about yourself.

- What abilities do you have that will make you a worthwhile volunteer?
- How much time can you dedicate to service? Would it be best to work two full Saturdays a month? Could you work one afternoon a week? Are there days that do not fit into your schedule? Making a decision about the amount of time you can commit to will determine whether you would like to pursue a short-term or long-term project.
- Are you ready to dive in or would you rather take a training course before you start to provide service?
- Would you prefer to work as part of a team or independently of others?

Once you have established preferences regarding these issues, you are ready to do some research about various agencies...And now you have questions to ask!

Remember that service is usually completed in a public forum. It is also a job. You will want to present yourself as a young lady, dress in business attire for an interview, and act professionally at all times when you are on the job. Now you are ready for success!

Requirements by School District

• **The Maryland State Board of Education**

All public school systems in Maryland share the same service learning requirements. Students must complete 75 hours of service learning before graduation. These hours may be incorporated into curricula or direct service. Each school system has different specific requirements. To learn more about service learning and/or to contact your school system's service learning coordinator look on the internet at www.mssa.sailorsite.net.

• **Department of Education in the District of Columbia**

Graduating seniors in the District of Columbia's are required to complete 100 hours of Community Service. Students may begin their service at any age. Service hours must be documented and verifiable and submitted to their cumulative record each year. Students may complete their service requirement by participating in independent community service projects

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or through curriculum-based service learning. More information can be obtained by contacting the Community Service Coordinator at area high schools in the District of Columbia or by contacting the District of Columbia Community Service and Service Learning Programs Office at (202) 442-5155.

Virginia Department of Education

Virginia has not set a statewide standard regarding community service requirements for graduating seniors. Requirements for Community Service are set by individual schools and school districts. Many required courses contain a community service component. Please refer to the VA Department of Education website at www.pen.k12.va.us/ for more information on community service requirements in particular schools and school districts or contact your school's guidance counselor.

Where to go for Community Service

Here are some ideas for community service in your community. Remember: the sky's the limit! If you don't see an option that interests you, make some calls on your own. Also sure to check the Resource List for websites and books that may give you ideas.

Maryland

Chesapeake Wildlife Sanctuary

17308 Queen Anne Bridge Rd.

Bowie, MD 20716-9053

Contact: Betty Lint

(301) 390-7010

Email: cheswild@erols.com

Website: www.chesapeakewildlife.org

Jobs include: Cleaning animal cages, paperwork, supply drives, and maintenance projects

No minimum age

Good Knight Child Empowerment Network

1101 Rhode Island Ave.

Beltsville, MD 20705

Contact: Jackie Cooper

(301) 595-8989

Email: Jurania@aol.com

Website: www.goodknight.org

Jobs include: Volunteering at the Museum, Safety Program Outreach

Minimum Age: 14

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission-Patuxent Watershed

2 Brighton Darn Rd.

Brookeville, MD 20833

Contact: Sandra August

(301) 774-9124

Email: saugust@wssc.dst.md.us

Jobs include: Shoreline clean-up, gardening, recycling, environmental projects

Minimum Age: 16 or 14 if accompanied by an adult

Public Playhouse

5445 Landover Rd.

Cheverly, MD 20781

Contact: Shirley Jones

(301) 277-1711

Jobs include: Ushers for theatre performances – mid-week matinees at 10 am and 12 pm, plus evenings and weekends.

Minimum Age: 16

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Watkins Nature Center
301 Watkins Park Dr.
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
Contact: Jackie Carson
(301) 249-6202

Jobs include: Animal care, gardening, trail maintenance, special events, program assistance
Minimum Age: 13

District of Columbia

Children's Hospital
111 Michigan Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20010-2970
Contact: Terry Orzechowski
(202) 884-2062
Email: khughes@cnmc.org
Website: www.cnmc.org

Jobs include: Clerical, welcome desk, registration, answer phones, assist pharmacist, assist librarian, mail room, copying
Minimum Age: 15

Smithsonian Folklife Festival
955 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Ste. 2600
Washington, DC 20560
Contact: Volunteer Coordinator
(202) 287-3436
Website: www@si.edu/folklife

Jobs include: Assisting with all aspects of pre-festival and festival production, assisting participants, musicians, visitors, and staff
Minimum Age: 14

Capital Area Community Food Bank
645 Taylor St., NE
Washington, DC 20017-2063
Contact: Margaret Henry or Melinda Jones
(202) 526-5344 ext. 235
Email: mrhenry@secondharvest.org or msjones@secondharvest.org
Website: www.capitalareafoodbank.org

Jobs include: Food sorting Saturdays 9 am – 12 pm & 1 pm – 4 pm; 4th Wednesdays 6:30 pm– 8:30 pm and special events.
Minimum Age: 16 or 10 if accompanied by an adult

America the Beautiful Fund
1730 K St., NW
Suite 1002
Washington, DC 20006
Contact: Katie Rehwaldt
(202) 638-1649
Email: katieogp@hotmail.com
Website: www.america-the-beautiful.org

Jobs include: food growing and community beautification projects, clerical work, sorting seeds
Minimum Age: 11

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My Sister's Place
PO Box 29596
Washington, DC 20017
Contact: Volunteer Coordinator
(202) 592-5261
Email: msp29596@aol.com
Website: www.mysistersplace.com
Jobs include: Helping with children's programs, tutoring, working in the shelter, clerical
Minimum Age: 14

Food and Friends
58 L St., SE
Washington, DC 20003
Contact: Keith Miller
(202) 863-1843
Email: kmiller@foodandfriends.org
Website: www.foodandfriends.org
Jobs include: Kitchen assistance and delivery help
Minimum Age: 13

Save Outdoor Sculpture
1730 K Street, NW
Suite # 566
Washington, DC 20008
Contact: Annie Sugar
(202) 634-1422 ext. 243
Email: asugar@heritagepreservation.org
Website: www.heritagepreservation.org
Jobs include: Sculpture preservation, rededication, and raising public awareness projects
Minimum: None

Virginia

Northern Virginia Training Center
9901 Braddock Rd.
Fairfax, VA 22032-1941
Contact: Pete Radloff
(703) 323-4078
Email: pradloff@nvtc.state.va.us
Website: www.nvtc.state.va.us
Jobs include: Leading Arts & Crafts Activities, helping at special events, clerical work
Minimum Age: 13

The Newseum
1101 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209
Contact: Carol Knopes
(703) 284-2823
Email: cknopes@freedomforum.org
Website: www.newseum.org
Jobs include: Helping with activities and Education Center programming on monthly Family Days, leading tours in Freedom Park; Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm, includes training session.
Minimum Age: 12

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Earth Force
1908 Mount Vernon Avenue
2nd Floor
Alexandria, VA 22301

Contact: Carrie Jenkins
(703) 299-9400

Email: getoutspoken@earthforce.org

Website: www.earthforce.org

Jobs Include: Community research, mapping, conducting surveys, keeping diaries, and interviewing officials in order to participate in programs which promote bicycle riding.

Minimum Age: 10

Resources

Websites:

- www.gsusa.org/girls/How/Leadership/service.htm

This section of the GSUSA website has important information about Girl Scout service. It also includes ideas and tips on coming up with an effective service project.

- www.collegeboard.org/features/service/html/volunee.html

This site includes helpful hints regarding community service. It also has links to many volunteer agencies that may have a job that's just right for you!

- www.servenet.org

This website has a zipcode search. Just punch in your zip code and a listing of opportunities in your community will pop up. Agencies, service projects, and who you will be helping are listed along with contact information. This website also has a resources page with advice for volunteers under the age of 18. Check it out!

- www.needsyou.org

On this website you will find an alphabetical listing of agencies with volunteer positions posted. You also have the option of filling out an application for service and the agency of your choice will contact you.

- www.unitedway.org

Look for the "Want to Volunteer" section. From this splash page you can link to the United Way agency in your area.

- www.helping.org

This site has yet another zip code search engine. Need some inspiration? Read about experiences volunteers have had on the "Personal Reflections on Volunteering" page.

- www.volunteermatch.org

Another zip code search engine as well as hot volunteer picks and a plethora of virtual volunteer opportunities.

- www.impactonline.org

This site links to Volunteer match, but the thing that is so unique about this website is the bounty of advice it offers potential volunteers from "Exploring a Career" to "Making a Match".

Books:

(all of these books are available in paperback on www.amazon.com)

- [The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens : The Ultimate Teenage Success Guide](#) by Sean Covey

This is a book full of tips on how teenagers can accomplish their goals. This book is full of fun drawings and cartoons.

- [Taste Berries for Teens Journal : My Thoughts on Life, Love and Making a Difference](#) by Bettie B. Youngs, Jennifer Leigh Youngs

This is a journal designed for adolescents who need a space to write about their thoughts. This journal helps teens sort out their feelings, the issues they feel strongly about, and their dreams.

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- Get Involved! : A Girl's Guide to Volunteering (Girls Guides) by Erin M. Hovanec
- A Student's Guide to Volunteering: Do the Right Thing, While Gaining Valuable Job Related.... by Theresa De Geronimo, Theresa Degeronimo
- How We Made the World a Better Place : Kids and Teens Write on How They Changed Their Corner of the World by The Staff of Fairview Press

Documenting & Record Keeping

Now that you've selected a volunteer activity (and possibly started providing service), you need to make sure you get credit for your hours!

- Make sure you talk to an administrator/counselor at your school about how to document your hours. You may need to have your volunteer coordinator at the agency where you do service sign a statement on how many hours you have worked. You may need him/her to write a letter. If your volunteer supervisor needs to do something that requires more than signing a document, make sure you give him/her plenty of advance notice—two months will usually do the trick.
- Think ahead. Don't forget that the people you have worked with and worked for make great references for jobs, internships, and college applications. Even if you don't need a letter of recommendation in the immediate future, you may need one in the year to come. Just ask!
- Stay organized! Keep a file with all of the information from your service project and the agency where you volunteered. This way you will always be able to track it down. (You may even be able to draw on this information in a college application/scholarship essay.)

Scholarships & Service Related Awards

Your dedication to service in the community could reap more awards than just personal satisfaction. Read about the awards and scholarships available to students who do service!

President's Student Service Challenge

This program has two parts: The President's Student Service Awards and The President's Student Service Scholarships. Any student in Kindergarten through college who has completed 50-100 hours of community service is a candidate for the President's Student Service Silver or Gold Award. Any junior or senior in high school who has completed 100 hours of service during a twelve-month period is eligible for a scholarship. To learn more about these opportunities and how to apply check out the website at <http://www.student-service-awards.org/index.html> or write to:

President's Student Service Awards
P.O. Box 189
Wilmington, DE 19899-0189
Phone: 302-622-9107
Fax: 302-622-9106
E-mail: pssainfo@dca.net

President's Student Service Scholarships
1505 Riverview Road
P.O. Box 68
St. Peter, MN 56082
Phone: 888-275-5018
Fax: 507-931-9168
E-mail: RDCSFA@aol.com

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The Congressional Award for Volunteer Public Service

“America’s Award for Youth” is an award program for young people ages 14 – 23. An award recipient may receive Bronze, Silver and Gold Congressional Award Certificates and Bronze, Silver and Gold Congressional Award Medals. The Gold Congressional Award Medal requires a minimum of 400 hours of service. There are three steps to the program.

1. register to participate
2. choose an advisor
3. set goals
4. accomplish goals
5. receive your award

To learn more about the award and its project guidelines go to http://www.congressionalaward.org/congress/99_site/ProgAreas.cfm on the web. Registration for the program is \$10 and registration can be done online or by writing to the following address:

The Congressional Award Foundation
PO Box 77440
Washington, DC 20013
(202) 226-0130

The Brick Award for Community Leadership

The Brick Award is for youth who have shown exceptional leadership in their communities. Winners are selected from interviews and essays. Applications may be obtained by calling (212) 523-1175 or by e-mailing brick@dosomething.org. Additional information is posted on the internet at www.dosomething.org.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

This award program is endorsed by GSUSA. It rewards individuals in grades 5-12 for outstanding community service. Selected entrants could receive up to \$1,000 dollars. Applicants must be nominated by an adult leader. Applications may be downloaded from http://www.nassp.org/scholarships/aw_prudential.htm.

Colgate Youth for America Campaign

Anyone between the ages of 4-19 who is a member of Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Girls Incorporated, Camp Fire Inc., and/or National 4H Council can enter his/her group’s outstanding service projects. Celebrity judges award monetary awards from Colgate for the best project. Projects must be executed in one year from March-March. Participants can enter online at http://www.colgate.com/Community/yfa_form_1999.html. Entry forms may also be obtained by emailing fcw001@aol.com (please include your mailing address) or by writing to:

Colgate Youth For America
P.O. Box 1058
FDR Station
New York, NY 10150

Target All-Around Scholarship

This scholarship program is geared towards high school seniors and college students under the age of 24 who are pursuing higher education and show a commitment to community service. Five \$10,000 and 1900 \$1,000 scholarships are awarded annually for college tuition. Applicants are judged on the number of community volunteer service hours, volunteer awards and honors, a recommendation from a volunteer supervisor/leader, a short essay on volunteer service, and a grade point average of 2.0 or higher. Students may learn more about the program and apply on-line at www.target.com/schools/scholarships/students/students_scholarships_form.asp or call 1-800-537-4180 and ask for the Target All-Around Scholarship program manager.

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President's Service Awards

The Points of Light Foundation awards outstanding individuals, families, and organizations each year for volunteer activities that involve human service, educational, environmental and public safety needs. About 20 awards are presented annually. Contestants must be nominated by a January deadline each year. Participants are judged on achievement, community needs, innovation, mobilization, and ongoing involvement. Nominations must include a narrative statement about the nominee and supplementary materials. Winners receive a silver medallion and a certificate signed by the President. To learn more about this program and to receive a nomination form visit www.pointsoflight.org/awards/psa_nominationform.pdf on the web, email Awards@PointsofLight.org, call (202) 729-8000, or write to:

The Points of Light Foundation
1400 I Street, NW Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20005

Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

This organization sponsors groups who complete volunteer, environmental beautification projects in their communities. Youth groups and school groups are eligible for this program if they meet the criteria. Groups may enter in the following categories: litter prevention, beautification and community improvement, minimization of the impact of waste on communities. The project must be completed in one calendar year prior to when the award is presented. Applicants must submit an information sheet (available on-line at www.kab.org/national_conference/downloads/na_info.pdf), provide a summary of the project, and supplemental materials relating to the particular project. For more information about this program email Kelly Rotkewicz, krotkewicz@kab.org, call 203-323-8987, or write to Keep America Beautiful, Inc., 1010 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06901. Keep America Beautiful also has a website with information about on-going projects and award programs at www.kab.org.

President's Environmental Youth Awards

These annual awards are supported by the Environmental Protection Agency. Students from Kindergarten through twelfth grade who participate in an environmental project either individually or as a part of a group are eligible for this program. Individual or group entrants must have an adult supervisor overseeing their project. Projects must be completed by July 31 of every year. The EPA will select regional and national winners based on the following criteria: environmental need and appropriateness, accomplishment of goals, long-term impact, extent of youth's initiative, involvement of others, soundness of approach, clarity of presentation, and innovation. Each participant in the program will receive a certificate signed by the President. Applications are available on the Internet at www.epa.gov/enviroed/pdf/peyabroc.pdf and completed applications should be sent to regional EPA offices.





SHARE
Annual Giving Fund



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United Way/CTC campaign