

# Personal Service Project

## Objectives and Standards

9<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



**AmeriCorps**



INTERACTIVE

# Lesson 4 – Personal Service Project

## Objectives and Standards

### Teacher Goals

- Guide students in selecting a personal service project.

### Student Goals

- Research community needs that might be addressed by a service project.
- Pledge to complete a personal service project.

### Social-Emotional Domain

- Self-management

### Common Core State Standards

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-12.7
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-12.8
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-12.4

### C3 Framework for Social Studies Standards

- D2.Civ.5.9-12
- D3.1.9-12
- D4.2.9-12
- D4.6.9-12
- D4.7.9-12
- D4.8.9-12

### MATERIALS

- Student Pledge Card printable
- Camera(s)
- Device for recording student videos
- Computer with internet access and the ability to post photos and videos online
- Journal #7: Personal Service Project printable
- Miscellaneous art and presentation supplies (see “Share It” below)



## PREPARATION

- Preview the 9/11 Day Ambassador videos and select the ones you will use in your brainstorming session (see “Plan It” below).
  - To help students get started if they have difficulty brainstorming, prepare a list of a few service projects that connect in some way to the stories of the 9/11 Ambassadors.
    - Some groups connected to 9/11 Ambassadors that you might suggest serving include:
      - + Victims of a tragedy or disaster (Will Jimeno)
      - + Veterans or their families (Wendy Ploger, Rob Grunewald, Mari Tobin, Kathy Dillaber, Brian and Alma Hart)
      - + First responders (John Feal, Jay Winuk, George Martin, Dan Nigro)
      - + K-9 first responders/service dogs (David Lim)
      - + Cancer patients/survivors (Candace Baker)
- Print a copy of the Student Pledge Card for each student.
- Print a copy of Journal #7: Personal Service Project for each student.

## Lesson 4 Activities

### Plan It

- Tell the class that it is time for them to select a personal service project to do on their own.
- Have students use the library and the internet to research community needs or challenges related to their personal interests.
- Direct students to write an informational essay that includes all of the following:
  - a summary of their research, citing sources
  - service project ideas that might address some of the community needs they researched
  - which service project they will complete, and the reasons they selected that project
- Have students fill out their own graphic organizers based on project options they are interested in completing.
  - If students struggle for ideas, share some of the 100+ ideas available in these [911Day.org](https://911Day.org) resources: [911Day.org/resources](https://911Day.org/resources)
    - 30 Good Deeds for 9/11 Day
    - 9/11 Day: More Good Deeds for You (100 more!)
- Have students give a brief informal speech summarizing their research and the service project they chose to complete as a result.
  - You may wish to record these speeches to share online.
- Once all students have chosen a service project, meet with them individually to talk about the project they chose. Discuss when and how the student will complete the project, including discussion of what supplies they might need.

### Pledge It

- Distribute a copy of the Student Pledge Card to each student.
- Have students fill out the Student Pledge Card.
- Instruct students to keep their Student Pledge Cards with them as a reminder of their promise.

## Do It

- After Lesson 5, help students complete school-based projects by providing time, supplies, and assistance as needed.
- Support students who chose projects outside of school by routinely reminding them of their pledge and asking for updates.
- Have families and students take photos as they complete the service project.
  - In some cases, you may wish to suggest they take photos Before, During, and After to document the impact the project had.

## Reflect on It

- As the last students complete their service projects, invite all students to share their experiences with their service projects.
- Have students reflect on their experience with the service project by completing Journal #7: Personal Service Project.

## Share It

- Create an online photo album to share pictures from all the service projects with students' families.

## Extension Activities

- Invite leaders from community service organizations and charities to speak to the class about service opportunities in their organizations.
- Encourage students to take videos as they work on their service projects; after it ends, they can collect these clips to create a video they share online.
  - Suggest that they include interviews with one another about their process and with the project beneficiaries to document the project impact.
- Consider starting a service-based after school club where students can collaborate and/or work independently on service projects they were interested in but did not have time to complete during the unit.
- Share with students ideas and excerpts from *The Kid's Guide to Service Projects: Over 500 Service Ideas for Young People Who Want to Make a Difference* by Barbara A. Lewis, or make the book available for interested students to examine in more depth.



## Student Pledge Card

# 9/11 DAY

## GOOD DEED PLEDGE



For 9/11 Day this year, I will:

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My Name \_\_\_\_\_

My Grade \_\_\_\_\_ My State \_\_\_\_\_ My Country \_\_\_\_\_

School/Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Share your pledge on social media and tag us!

@911day @911day @911day 911day.org #911day



See printable version on page 8. Cut in half, 8.5" x 5.5"

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Journal #7: Personal Service Project

Write a summary of your personal service project. Describe what you did and who was served as a result of the project.

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What community need did your personal service project help meet?

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Why did you choose this service project instead of other options?

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Now that the project is complete, what were the most positive aspects of the project?

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Describe any negative aspects to the project. Did you anticipate these, or were you surprised?

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In what other ways can you (or others) meet the community need your project addressed?

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