



9/11 Day Teachers Guide

The goal of our 9/11 Day lesson plans and activities is to provide teachers with the tools they need to encourage students to participate in the 9/11 National Day of Service by performing their own good deed or act of service. Lessons and activities can and should be used by before/after school program leaders, homeschool parents, and any others who work with young people.

Lessons build on each other, though can still be taught independently. **For those with limited classroom time**, many of the tasks embedded within the lessons are also available as short independent activities. There are 9 -11 separate activities for each grade level band (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12). The activities align with the themes of each of the five lessons: Gratitude, Good Deeds, Learning About 9/11 Day, Class Service Project and Personal Service Project.

The mission of 9/11 Day is to annually rekindle the spirit of unity felt after the tragedy, by encouraging people of all ages to perform good deeds and acts of kindness. Students may have deep knowledge of the events, or no knowledge at all, and some may have misconceptions or misinformation. These particular lessons and activities focus largely on service rather than the events of 9/11, especially for younger students. **Some tips for initiating conversation around 9/11 Day:**

- Tell students that 9/11 Day is a National Day of Service, which means helping or doing things for other people.
- It is also a day of remembrance, when we honor the thousands of people who died in a series of tragic events on September 11, 2001.
- Point out that after 9/11, people did kind things for each other and served their communities together.
- Share that after 9/11, people forgot their differences, and came together in unity.

There are many organizations that provide excellent educational materials and resources to teach students about the events of 9/11. The [9/11 Memorial & Museum](#) offers many valuable learning opportunities and tools for teachers, students, families and the general public.



Lessons Overview

Lessons are tailored by grade level to ensure that content is age appropriate, and provide support for a range of Common Core literacy standards and C3 framework standards for social studies, as indicated at the top of each lesson.

Each lesson builds on the one before it in terms of both content and social-emotional growth. They are structured to gently guide students from a focus on self toward a focus on others, and from collaboration toward independence.

Lesson 1: Gratitude focuses on the social awareness SEL competency as students define and reflect on gratitude. This lesson, which also relies heavily on class, group, and/or partner activities, continues to provide much student support.

Lesson 2: Good Deeds focuses on the self-awareness competency of the CASEL social-emotional learning framework as students first learn about good deeds and reflect on times they have seen or experienced kindness. This early lesson features the most support, as it relies heavily on class, group, and/or partner activities.

Lesson 3: Learning About 9/11 Day focuses on the relationship skills SEL competency as students learn in an age-appropriate way about the events of September 11, 2001 and the spirit of unity in the days that followed, which inspired the National Day of Service.

Lesson 4: Personal Service Project returns the SEL focus to the self, but this time on the self-management competency. Equipped with a deep understanding of good deeds, gratitude, and the National Day of Service, along with the experience of a shared service project, students are now ready to independently choose, plan, and implement a service project that is meaningful to them personally.

Lesson 5: Class Service Project focuses on the responsible decision-making SEL competency as students work together to brainstorm and agree upon a group service project. This collaborative project serves as a model for students before they choose a project of their own, helping them build confidence and showing them what to expect in the next lesson.

It is our hope that these five lessons help students achieve growth in all five SEL competencies while supporting academic standards and providing students with opportunities to contribute in a meaningful way to the classroom, school, and community as you take part in the 9/11 National Day of Service. Visit 911day.org for more information.

