

9/11 Day Good Deeds Guide

Project Ideas for Parents



AmeriCorps

INTERACTIVE



9/11 Day Good Deeds Guide

Good Deed Ideas for Children Ages 2-7

Hunger and Food Insecurity

- Create colorful placemats and cards for donation to your local Meals on Wheels program (Mealsonwheelsamerica.org).
- Make a reusable “Giving Bag.” Buy a cloth shopping bag and ask children to decorate it. While grocery shopping, fill it with nonperishable items like pasta and canned goods and deliver those to your local food pantry (Foodpantries.org).
- Count up the cans and boxes in your pantry. Donate some amount (a penny, nickel or dime) for each item in your pantry to a hunger organization like No Kid Hungry (Nokidhungry.org) or Feeding America (Feedingamerica.org)

Protecting Our Earth

- Plan a park or beach clean-up. Purchase gloves, bags and “trash grabbers” at the hardware store. Invite other families to join you. Bring snacks and games to make it a fun day (kab.org).
- Kindness should extend to the natural world. Create a homemade bird or squirrel feeder for your yard.
- Plant a tree in your yard or a local green space. If you cannot plant a tree yourself, make a donation to a nonprofit that plants trees like One Tree Planted (Onetreepanted.org), Arbor Day Foundation (Arborday.org), or the Jewish National Fund (Shop.jnf.org).



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Poverty and Homelessness

- Assemble toiletry kits for those experiencing homelessness. Fill plastic bags with travel-sized toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, hygiene wipes, sunscreen and hand sanitizer). Donate these to a local shelter or homeless outreach organization.
- Sort through gently used children's books and donate them to under-resourced public schools or shelters serving homeless children.
- Organize a coat or sock donation drive during the days leading up to 9/11. Donate all collected items to a local homeless shelter. (Onewarmcoat.org or Operationwarm.org)

Honoring and Thanking our Heroes

- Bake cookies and deliver them to your local firehouse or police station. Include a note of gratitude and support.
- Write letters to soldiers and ask children to decorate them with crayons or stickers. Send to Soldiers Angels for inclusion in care packages (Soldiersangels.org)
- Order a Box of Hope and paint Stars of Hope (Starsofhopeusa.org) to send to a community that is grieving a natural disaster or other tragedy. Stars of Hope is a project of the New York Says Thank You Foundation (NewYorksaysthankyou.org) which was created after the events of 9/11.

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Good Deed Ideas for Children Ages 7-12

Hunger and Food Insecurity

- Volunteer as a family delivering meals to homebound, ill and elderly neighbors (MealsonWheelsamerica.org). Make colorful cards to include in the meal packages.
- Working with a homeless outreach program or food pantry, create emergency hunger relief packs for distribution.
- Host a lemonade stand or bake sale to benefit your local food pantry, soup kitchen or hunger relief organization (FeedingAmerica.org or Nokidhungry.org)

Protecting Our Earth

- Volunteer weeding, mulching or harvesting in a local community garden, or offer to plant flowers, vegetable and herbs in an elderly neighbor's yard.
- Plan a park or beach clean-up. Purchase gloves, bags and "trash grabbers" at the hardware store. Invite other families to join you. Bring snacks and games to make it a fun day! (kab.org)
- Plant a tree in your yard or a local green space. If you cannot plant a tree yourself, make a donation to a nonprofit that plants trees like One Tree Planted (Onetreeplanted.org), Arbor Day Foundation (Arborday.org), or the Jewish National Fund (Shopjnf.org).



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Poverty and Homelessness

- Fill backpacks with schools supplies and donate them to a local foster care agency or family. Explore Volunteers of America (voa.org) to find a local backpack drive.
- Create birthday bags/boxes for children navigating the foster care system or living in shelter. Fill bags with a box of cake mix, container of frosting, candles, party hats and a small toy (Confettifoundation.org or Thebirthdaypartyproject.org).
- Organize a coat or sock donation drive during the days leading up to 9/11. Donate all collected items to a local homeless shelter. (Onewarmcoat.org or Operationwarm.org)

Honoring and Thanking our Heroes

- Create care packages of puzzles, treats, and personal items for our active-duty military. (Operationgratitude.com)
- Bake cookies and deliver them to your local firehouse and police station. Include a note of gratitude and support.
- Order a Box of Hope and paint Stars of Hope (Starsofhopeusa.org) to send to a community that is grieving a natural disaster or other tragedy. Stars of Hope is a project of the New York Says Thank You Foundation (NewYorksaysthankyou.org) which was created after the events of 9/11.

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Good Deed Ideas for Children Ages 12-18

Hunger and Food Insecurity

- Volunteer making and serving a meal at a local soup kitchen. If you play an instrument, consider bringing it along to play music while the guests are enjoying their meal.
- Volunteer unpacking shipments, stocking shelves or distributing food at a local food pantry ([Foodpantries.org](https://www.foodpantries.org) or [Feedingamerica.org](https://www.feedingamerica.org))
- Explore the No Kid Hungry website ([Nokidhungry.org/youth](https://www.nokidhungry.org/youth)). Sign up to become a Youth Ambassador and start an advocacy letter writing campaign.

Protecting Our Earth

- Volunteer planting, weeding or mulching in community garden or local organic farm.
- Commit to taking action as a family: Reduce use of single use plastics. Start composting. Explore solar energy. Walk, bike or take public transportation whenever possible. ([Explore SustainUS.org](https://www.exploresustainus.org), [Upliftclimate.org](https://www.upliftclimate.org) or [Theclimateinitiative.org](https://www.theclimateinitiative.org))
- Launch a food rescue program (donating unopened/uneaten cafeteria food to a community fridge) or composting program at your school.



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- Volunteer with a homeless outreach organization in your community, delivering bottles of water, socks, toiletry kits, feminine hygiene products and other essentials to people who are experiencing homelessness or living marginally.
- Organize and throw a party for children living in a homeless shelter or domestic violence shelter. Bring a craft project, goody bags and cupcakes to decorate.
- Create “comfort cases” (duffel bags containing a blanket, water bottle, stuffed animal, small toy and book) for children navigating the foster care system. These children often use garbage bags to carry their belongings. ([Togetherwerise.org](https://togetherwerise.org) or [Comfortcases.org](https://comfortcases.org))

Honoring and Thanking our Heroes

- Make paracord lanyards and donate them to Operation Gratitude for inclusion in military care packages. (Find more info and directions at [Operationgratitude.com](https://operationgratitude.com))
- Deliver a hot, home-made meal to first responders (firefighters, EMT workers, police officers or school safety officers) in your community.
- Organize a paperback book drive and send donations to Operation Paperback which supports our military serving abroad, as well as military families and veterans ([Operationpaperback.org](https://operationpaperback.org))