

## AMERICORPS SERVICE PROJECT IDEAS

### Help for the Hungry/Homeless\*

- Help cook, serve a meal or distribute food at a homeless shelter or food bank
- Spend time with/tutor homeless children
- Gather clothing from your neighbors and donate it to a local shelter
- Make "I Care" kits with combs, toothbrushes, shampoo, etc. for homeless people
- Help with repairs at a local homeless shelter
- Collect grocery coupons to give to a local food bank
- If your community doesn't have a food bank, work with local officials to start one
- Organize a letter-writing campaign to your Members of Congress to voice support for bills that give aid to the hungry and homeless
- Develop a plan for reducing hunger/homelessness in your community. Share it with others; and implement it
- Organize a neighborhood group to plant, tend, and harvest a vegetable garden. Donate the produce to a food bank.
- Participate in the Great American Bake Sale to raise money to fight childhood hunger. Visit [www.greatamericanbakesale.org](http://www.greatamericanbakesale.org) for more information.

### Senior Citizens\*

- Adopt a "grandfriend"
- Rake leaves, shovel snow, clean gutters, or wash windows for senior citizens
- Pick up medicine for an elderly person
- Write letters for or read to an elderly person
- Go for a walk with a senior citizen in your community
- Deliver meals to homebound individuals
- Offer to pick up groceries with/for a senior citizen
- Teach a senior friend how to use a computer or the internet
- Get a group together to sing, present a play, deliver small gifts, hold a dance, or play games with residents of a nursing home
- Interview a senior citizen and write about his or her life. Get your story published in your school or community newsletter, local paper, etc.

### School Activities

- Paint a mural over graffiti
- Organize and invite local police officers to present a drug awareness or bike safety assembly
- Form volunteer teams for a campus safety escort service
- Organize a canned goods drive in conjunction with a school dance and donate the goods to a food bank

### Neighborhood Enhancement

- Help neighbors paint and repair their homes
- Create brochures and booklets about local history; house the finished products in local museums or libraries
- Clean up a vacant lot
- Organize a campaign to raise money to purchase and install new playground equipment in an area park
- Campaign for additional street lamps in poorly lighted areas
- Paint a mural or clean up a local park
- Plant flowers in public areas that could use some color

### For Those with Special Needs

- Volunteer to help at a Special Olympics event
- Set up a buddy system for kids with special needs at your school
- Raise money for Braille or large print books for the visually impaired
- Volunteer at an agency that works with emotionally disturbed children
- Read books or the newspaper on tape for visually impaired people
- Bring toys to children in the cancer ward of a hospital

### Politics and Government

- Contact your local League of Women Voters, voter registration office or, visit Freedom's Answer on-line ([www.freedomanswer.org](http://www.freedomanswer.org)) to find out how you can help people register to vote.
- Identify a local issue you are concerned about and contact someone in local government with your ideas on what to do about it
- Organize a public issues forum for your neighborhood
- Volunteer at a polling booth the day of an election
- Offer to pass out election materials

### The Environment\*

- Plant a garden or tree where the whole neighborhood can enjoy it
- Set up a recycling system for your home and participate in your neighborhood curbside recycling pick-up
- Organize a carpooling campaign in your neighborhood to reduce air pollution
- Adopt an acre of a rainforest
- Clean up trash along a river or in a park
- Create a habitat for wildlife
- Create a campaign to encourage hiking and walking
- Test the health of the water in your local lakes, rivers, or streams

### Working with Younger Children\*

- Tutor a student that needs help learning English or some other subject
- Read to younger children or encourage them to read to you
- Teach younger children about a subject you care about - drug/ alcohol awareness, leadership skills, conflict resolution, nutrition, etc.
- Invite younger children to volunteer with you!

\*Access issue-based service-learning modules on this issue at [www.YSA.org/nysd](http://www.YSA.org/nysd) for further ideas and resources