

Carolinas Key Club

A GUIDE TO SERVICE PROJECTS

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Hey Key Clubbers!

The Service Planning Committee is so proud to release the first ever edition of the Carolinas District Key Club Service Project Guide. Within this guide, you'll find information that will both inspire and motivate your clubs to plan and executive innovative service projects in your community. If you have any questions regarding planning service projects, don't hesitate to reach out to us!

-Service Planning Committee

PLANNING A SERVICE PROJECT

1

Find a need in your community. You can contact local nonprofits in your area, as many have lists of project needs, or, you can get some inspiration for club-wide service projects from this guide! Always try to fit the needs of your community.

2

Organize a plan of action. Once you have chosen the direction of your service project, it's time to decide on the actionable items you can do to make a difference. Create a list of items you will need to complete your service project, and how and where you will get them. Estimate how many volunteers you will need, and come up with important dates for any start/end dates for drives.

3

Recruit volunteers. Making sure you have help is important. You want to create a clear sense of purpose and let volunteers envision the impact that their efforts will make. Once you've cast vision and helped an audience connect with a cause, you're ready to have them take action! Be sure to communicate clear instructions about the project to your volunteers. You will also want to ensure the opportunities make it easy for them to participate. A project that is too large or time consuming can scare away a number of volunteers.

Project Inspiration

Do you need some ideas for service projects? Check out the ideas below!

Winter Clothing Sale

Winter Clothing Sale- Instead of doing a drive, set a meeting dedicated to knitting/crochet hats, scarves, sweaters, and even bears. Then, sell these and donate the proceeds to a charity or hospital or even use some money to purchase new materials.

Car Wash

Hold a car wash at your school or local area to fundraise for your club or events such as Trick or Treat for UNICEF. Create posters and post them advertising the car wash and Key Club in order for the best results.

Holiday Sale

Hold a bake or drink sale depending on the season to fundraise for your club or Key Club preferred charities/partners. During the winter, hot chocolate sales work great while ice cream sales work better during the spring. Remember to advertise the holiday sale through school announcements, posters, and telling your friends.

Plant a Garden

Reach out to your local community and families and offer to help plant gardens. Helping plant gardens for the elderly is a great way to create bonds and help out! Places such as MUSC have a community garden constantly looking for volunteers.

Movie Night

Host a movie night either as a drive-in or by booking out a theater to raise money and have a fun time! Great way to incorporate the community as well.

Tutoring

Set up an afterschool program with a local elementary school tutoring them in English and math. This could be done outdoors in the nice weather in preparation for tests.

Talent Show

Use the partnership with a local children's hospital to host a talent show this winter and perform for children!
* Try to incorporate the kids in!

Cat and Dog Toy Making

Make cat and dog toys for your local animal shelter. Bring in items such as used socks, clothing, and rope. Key Clubs may also create items for hamsters and other animals by creating homes out of cardboard.

Reading Books with Kids

Read a book for children in order to show love and care for your community. This can be done at a children's hospital, orphanage, or library or recorded at schools and sent out. Key Clubs may also partner with Squads Abroad for this project.

Adopt-a-Teacher

Students will be assigned to a specific teacher throughout the semester. They will reserve service hours for assisting teachers with various tasks such as sweeping floors, stapling papers, or reorganizing books. Students can even give their teachers cards of gratitude to which service hours will be awarded based on how long was spent making them.

The More the Merrier Project

If you invite 3 individuals to a Key club meeting and they join and become active members, you will be granted one service hour.

Parade Clean-Up Crew

Once a week for an entire month, members must choose a public area to carry out a cleanup. This could be a public park, playground, trails or other recreational areas.

Update Park Signs

Trails and parks are a great way for people to come together and do something outside. Get some friends together and decorate some signs for your local trail or park! Most signs show directions and what a certain path leads to so adding color and art to the signs will make them pop even more and make them more effective! You can even decorate them to promote your school's Key Club!

Exam Kits

Create kits for students during exam weeks! These kits can include candy, toys, and other items to help relieve stress. Reach out to students in order to gauge what would help them most.

Coin Drive

Members are tasked to collect as many coins as possible during a month and all proceeds go towards a local charity.

A Service A Day

Each day for a week, members are expected to execute one service project in their community. Whether that's mowing your neighbor's lawn or taking their dog for a walk, it's always the season for giving.

Planting Flowers

Cities in North Carolina tend to be plain grass and not as environmentally friendly. Get your club to buy local wildflower seeds to plant in these empty grass areas! This promotes not only bees and local pollinators but also adds color and beauty to an area

Extra tip: Collaborate with your school's ecology or environmental club to make sure you are planting local wildflowers! Planting non-native plants could further harm an ecosystem so make sure that you are careful with what you plant!

Canned Food Statue Contest

Each class will donate non perishable (preferably canned foods) and make statues with the cans they have donated. At the end of a certain time frame, people will get to vote on which statue is the biggest and best. This way, people are encouraged through competition and in the end, there will be canned food that can be donated.

Donations

Collect items such as old books, clothes, or toys and donate them to a library or charity you support.

Cookies for Seniors

Store bought cookies are good and all but what's better than homemade cookies? Get your club together and bake some cookies for your local nursing/hospice home. Use this opportunity to get to know the elders. You might be able to learn something value and hear some great stories!

Spend a Day with a Kid

Some elementary school children don't have anyone that are teenagers to lead them through their next few years through middle and high school. Get your key club to go to your feeder middle/elementary school to spend a day with a child! You can teach them the ups and downs or middle/high school and what you can expect as they go progress through the years. Be their mentor but also be their friend!

Spotlight on Service

Spotlight on Service is a way to highlight individual club projects in The Carolinas. There will be posts on the Carolinas website and social media every month with a photo and a description of an outstanding Key Club project. If your club has any special projects planned, please consider submitting them! To submit a project, go to the Carolinas Key Club website and click on the service tab and then click on Spotlight on Service. Fill out the form at the bottom of the page with your project information. After you are finished, send an email to spotlight@carolinaskeyclub.org with any pictures of your project so that it can be featured on the Carolinas Key Club social media!

Key Club Partners



***UNICEF** helps to provide for children's needs in more than 150 developing countries through community-based services in primary health care, basic education and safe water and sanitation.*



***The Thirst Project** aims to educate and inspire students to take part in providing clean water to those in need. Thirsty 30 is a campaign between Key Club and Thirst Project to help raise money to build water projects.*



Erika's Lighthouse

***Erika's Lighthouse** makes sure no one feels alone in their depression, by encouraging good mental health. Erika's Lighthouse strives to break down stigma surrounding mental health issues.*



***Landscape Structures** provides high-quality commercial playground equipment and planning consultation services that reflect the high degree of integrity that Kiwanis expects.*