

Organizing a Group Project

If you are an adult or youth leader of a group, a teacher, or anyone who wants to organize a project for a group of young people, read on!

A group service project is a great way to bring a group closer together while also providing a service that is difficult for one person to do alone. The benefits of the experience can be amazing. However, group projects do take a little extra planning. Here's how to get started:

Find an Agency

Browse through the database of service-learning opportunities for agencies that are in your area of interest. Check to see if the agency is designated as "group friendly."

If there is nothing that catches your eye or if the one agency that interests you is not listed as group-friendly or the minimum age doesn't match the age of your group, call the agency anyway. Never be afraid to ask an agency if they need help – you may be surprised at their answer!

Put Together a Project

Contact the agency and let them know you were referred by Volunteer Fairfax. Tell them your group is interested in a group project. Ask them if they have, or could design, a special project for your group. It is also great to suggest projects. Agencies love new ideas! Be ready to discuss details such as when your group is available, how many people will be on hand, how many adults will be volunteering with you, the ages of the participants, and how long you are willing to work.

Keep the Agency's Needs in Mind

Although you may have great ideas for service, the agency also has projects in mind that may take priority. Don't push for something if they tell you they're not ready. Remember, your group wants to help them, but only if they want the help.

Work Out the Details

Ask questions. When should you arrive? Is there a place to gather in the morning? Do you need to fill out any paperwork? Is there a place to eat on-site if you need to? Is parking available? There are lots of details that need to be worked out to make sure the project can run smoothly.

Reflect on the work you've done

Any good project ends with a look back on the service that's been performed. What did you accomplish? What did you learn? What could be done differently next time? How have you made a difference in your community? No matter where you've volunteered, you've helped your community become a better place!

