

100 Community Service Ideas for the New Mexico 4-H Centennial

Our first ten come from Brenda Bishop:

1. Cleaning the shooting range
2. Cleaning up the fairgrounds
3. Making items for nursing home trays
4. Making gift boxes for those in nursing homes
5. Serving at community dinners
6. Helping an older person with yard work
7. Christmas caroling to shut-ins
8. Volunteering at a commodity distribution pantry
9. Volunteering at a food pantry
10. Adopt a family or grandparent

From Kathy Duffy:

11. Alta Mira Family Services (www.AltaMiraNM.org) is a nonprofit helping families with a member with disabilities or developmental risks. On April 20th, 2013 there will be a KiteFest at Balloon Fiesta Park in Albuquerque. I am attaching a flyer from last April's KiteFest, and we will be updating the information for 2013 in the very near future. The undersigned would be the point of contact for the event and we can use some great 4-H'ers to help direct traffic, registration, activities, etc. Email KDuffy@AltaMiraNM.org

From Sandra Graves:

12. Sew small pillow cases and stuff them. Send them to the soldiers overseas.

From Lily Woodall:

13. Go Christmas caroling at rest homes
14. Book drives for children at shelters.
15. Book drives for veterans hospitals.
16. Have the club donate and make tie blankets for infants and children in the local hospital.
17. Ask club members to donate canned food for the homeless shelter.
18. Go through your closets and donate clothes to the local Goodwill.
19. Cards for the elderly: have the club make cards to cheer up the elderly.
20. Cards for the soldiers: print a United States Flag on half of a piece of paper and have the kids in the club write thank you notes and send them overseas to the soldiers. Contact your local military base to find out where you can take them.
21. Dog and cat food drives for the shelters.
22. Used towels and blanket donations to the local dog and cat shelters.

23. Operation Christmas Child: Through Good Samaritan, pack and donate shoe boxes filled with gifts for children. The Good Samaritan website will give you a list of things that can be put in the boxes, and where and when to take them. They will be distributed as Christmas presents to children in third world countries.
24. Cookies for soldiers. Have a baking evening with the club members and bake cookies and send them to the soldiers overseas.
25. Angel Tree at local church. Help to put up the tree, make the angels, and purchase Christmas gifts for an angel.

From Cindy Grooms:

26. Children's counting books. Use printer paper and stickers. Staple the "book" together, number the pages, and put the number of stickers on the page to correspond with the number on the page. Draw pictures on the pages and make them colorful.
27. Home made playdough. Find a local preschool, homeless shelter, battered women's shelter or a child crisis center and ask them if they would accept home made playdough. Measure one cup flour and 1 cup salt into a bowl. Add 1 cup water and mix well. Knead in flour until it does not stick to your hands. Color with food coloring. Store in ziplock bags.
28. Home made bubble solution. Find a local preschool, homeless shelter, battered women's shelter or a child crisis center and ask them if they would accept home made bubble solution.
Mix 1 cup dish washing liquid, 1 cup karo syrup, 5 cups water and 1 tsp glycerin. Put in plastic bottles and store.
29. Magnetic book mark to donate to homeless shelters, veterans hospitals or senior citizen homes.
Supplies:
Poster board strip 2" x 11"
Stickers
Markers
Magnet tape
Fold the poster board strip in half. Using markers and stickers decorate the outside of the folded paper. Cut 2 pieces of magnet tape and put them together to make sure they attract. Attach the sticky side of the magnets to the inside of the folded posterboard, being careful that they meet.
30. Potpourri Flower Pot for Mother's Day. Contact your local homeless shelter and ask how many children they have staying with them, and make enough Flower Pots that each child can choose their own- even the last child should have a choice.
Supplies:
Clay flower pots
Potpourri

Floral clay
Artificial flowers
Wire cutters
Permanent markers/Paint

Decorate the pot with paint or markers. Put floral clay in the bottom to cover the hole. Fill with potpourri, cut an artificial flower off the stem and stick the flower into the floral clay.

31. Candy Cane Reindeer for the homeless shelter

Decorate candy canes with wiggly eyes, cut pieces of brown construction paper for ears, a red pom pom for a nose, using a glue gun.

32. An Apple A Day stress relievers to give to teachers

Supplies:

Red balloons
Flour or corn starch
Permanent markers
Funnel
Rubber band
Hold punch
Construction paper

Blow the balloon up to stretch it. Using the funnel, fill the balloon with flour until it fits into your hand nicely. Tie a knot in the top. Using markers, add leaves and a face. Write a nice note to the teacher on the construction paper, punch a hole in it, and use the rubber band to attach it to the apple.

33. Pine cone bird feeder to donate to rest homes. Tie a string to the top of a pine cone to be used to hang the cone from a tree. Put peanut butter on the pine cone and roll the cone in a bowl of bird seed.

34. Valentines for Veterans. Have the club make Valentine's Day cards for the veterans and donate them to the local veterans association.

35. Stuffed Turkeys. Stuff brown lunch bags with candy about 2 inches and fold down the bag. Cut finger sized feathers out of colored construction paper, and staple them onto the folded bag. Glue wiggly eyes on.

From Sullivan Woodall:

36. Corn bags for veterans or elderly. Sew a sack about 10"x10" and fill with feeder corn. Sew end shut. These can be microwaved and make safe hot pads.

37. Decorated notebooks for Operation Military Kids. As club members to bring spiral notebooks of all sizes. Bring scrapbooking supplies and materials. Have the club members decorate the notebooks to donate them for the backpacks that are donated to kids who have family members overseas.

38. Blanket drive for homeless. Ask your members to go through their things and bring in any clean blankets they do not use to donate to the homeless shelter.
39. Diapers for orphanage. Ask members to purchase and donate boxes of diapers to be donated to the orphanage in Jarez.
40. School supplies for local needy schools. Ask members to purchase extra supplies when they shop for their school supplies and bring them to the club meeting. Donate them to a school.
41. Toiletry bags for homeless. Ask members to go to local motels and ask for donations of soap and shampoo. Ask local dentists for donations of toothbrushes and toothpaste. Have your young members put kits together in bags with the help of the older members. Donate to homeless shelter.
42. Socks for homeless. Ask members to bring a bag of new socks and donate them to the homeless shelter.
43. Heifer International. An organization that collects funds from donors and purchases animals for people in third world countries to improve their lives. They also teach them how to care for them. You can choose what kind of animals, such as a heifer, a goat, a small flock of chicks or ducks or even bees. Pass around a plastic jar at your meeting and ask for donations. Let the club choose what animal they want to buy.
44. Donate food to the Lion's Club to be given to families in need at the holidays.
45. Donate used glasses to the Lion's Club so they can help provide glasses to people who cannot afford them.
46. Stuffed animals for police department. Collect gently used and new stuffed animals from the club members and donate them to the police to give to children.
47. Christmas gifts for the homeless. Ask the club to shop for one extra gift and take it by the homeless shelter in the few days before Christmas.

From Bethany Colletti:

48. Make posters for the local animal shelter that have information about pet adoption.
49. Veteran's centerpieces for their regular pancake breakfasts. Put two small American flags in a Styrofoam base and decorate the base.

From Lancaster County, Nebraska 4-H Website:

50. Make a gift for the secretary of a non-profit organization you are associated with.
51. Take photos during an event and donate them to the event organizers.
52. Volunteer to be a museum guide.
53. Practice random acts of kindness.
54. Organize a coat drive in which old coats are donated for use by needy people.

55. On Johnny Appleseed Day in March, deliver apples to homeless shelters.
56. Collect old magazines and donate them to day care centers.
57. Collect unused make-up, perfume and other cosmetics for a center for abused women.
58. Ask your fire department how you can help others learn about fire safety.
59. Set up a buddy system to match new students with ones who have attended school.
60. Make new kid survival kits for new students at the school.
61. Assist an after-school little league or other sports program for younger children.
62. Make simple reading and math flash cards for a preschool or day care center.
63. Organize a reading hour for children at your local school or library.
64. Help with repairs at a local homeless shelter.
65. Donate art supplies to kids in a homeless shelter.
66. Make a care package with mittens, socks, T-shirts, etc. for a child at a homeless shelter.
67. Bake a batch of cookies and deliver them to a soup kitchen or homeless shelter.
68. Assist in a shelter day-care room, taking care of children while parents look for jobs.
69. Make first aid kits for homeless shelters.
70. Bring toys to children in the cancer ward of a hospital.
71. Pick up a trail during National Trail Day in June.
72. With the support of a vet clinic, organize a neuter and spay campaign to get animals neutered and spayed at a reduced rate.
73. Set up donation centers for animal products to be donated to needy.
74. Learn about pet therapy and do pet therapy with your animal at nursing homes and day care centers.
75. Organize a community dog wash.

From the internet:

76. Make sack lunches and deliver them to homeless shelters.

From Iowa State 4-H Website:

77. Help plant a garden at a nursing home.
78. Plant and take small plants for children in hospitals so they can watch it grow.

From West Virginia University Extension:

79. Hold an egg hunt for kids in a shelter.
80. Have a collection at your club meeting for Red Cross.
81. Warm clothing drive; mittens, hats, scarves and coats.
82. Collect crazy and fun hats for kids receiving chemotherapy.
83. Collect or make blankets for people in homeless shelters.

From Janet Witte:

84. Sponsor a child in 4-H whose parents do not have the resources or time to do so. Treat them as a member of your own family.

85.

Highway Cleanup – Adopt-a-Highway Program

To locate a mile long stretch of NM State Highway contact the District Public Information Officer for your area (see <http://www.dot.state.nm.us/> for District Map) (Unfortunately they do not have information on this program on their website at this time)

Great group activity – for 10 or so volunteers 3 to 4 times per year – In most cases once your club adopts a stretch of Highway a sign with club's name is posted at either end of the stretch. Great PR as well as Community Service.

District Public Information Officers

District One, Deming

Bridget Spedalieri Office [\(575\) 525-7340](tel:5755257340), Bridget.Spedalieri@state.nm.us

District Two, Roswell

Manon Arnett Office [\(575\) 637-7210](tel:5756377210), Manon.Arnett@state.nm.us

District Three, Albuquerque

Phil Gallegos Office [\(505\) 841-2764](tel:5058412764), Phillip.R.Gallegos@state.nm.us

District Four, Las Vegas

Kenny Lujan Office [\(505\) 454-3606](tel:5054543606), Kenny.Lujan@state.nm.us

District Five, Santa Fe

Patricia Wolff Office [\(505\) 476-4245](tel:5054764245), Patricia.Wolff@state.nm.us

District Six, Milan

Delane Baros Office [\(575\) 285-3244](tel:5752853244), Delane.Baros@state.nm.us

86.

Roadrunner Food Bank

www.rffb.org

Albuquerque Branch

5840 Office Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
Main: [505.247.2052](tel:5052472052)

Southern Branch

2001 Copper Loop
Las Cruces, NM 88005
Main: [575.523.4390](tel:5755234390)

Lots of Volunteer opportunities with the Food Bank for lots of 4-Hers

From the internet:

87. Have your club meet at a local park and pick up trash. Bring gloves and trash bags.
88. Make treats for a local senior home.
89. Collect unused make-up, perfume and other cosmetics for a center for abused women.
90. Make holiday cards for children's hospitals.
91. Make a holiday basket for someone in need.
92. Donate a Christmas tree to a needy family.
93. Conduct a tree planting drive.
94. Offer to tutor your favorite subject at the elementary school.
95. Have the members write a note of thanks to the local firefighters or police, bake cookies, and deliver it to them.
96. Organize a snack station for walkers or runners at a fundraising event.
97. Make pillow cases for children in hospitals.
98. Have the club members donate items to put together a baby layette for new moms.
99. Conduct a fundraiser to send a member to a 4-H camp.
100. Start a scholarship for your club to send needy kids to 4-H events.
101. Play board games with nursing home residents.