



SERVE DAY PROJECT GUIDELINES

Projects are chosen by each campus, specific to the ministry organizations and nonprofits they work with, their city officials, and the vulnerable populations within their church campus (elderly, veterans, single moms, widows, disabled, etc.).

The goal is to help as many people and trusted ministry partners and city officials as possible without causing harm or unnecessary liability for our church or for our volunteers. Volunteer safety is of utmost importance.

There are lots of great ideas for projects on the [Servolution website](#).

Guidelines for Choosing Projects:

1. Ministry Partners / Nonprofits should be vetted. Values should align with ours and there should be some research into how their finances operate (IRS 990, etc.).
2. Nonprofits should be instructed that they can briefly share about their organization and what they do, but not actively recruit our volunteers for later projects without going through us. It is preferred that they NOT have volunteer contact information, although sometimes this is unavoidable.
3. Any need that the city has that we can fulfill is a win. Clearing code violations is a big one (hoarders are difficult and those are many of the violations, but other violations are easily solvable).
4. Vulnerable populations should be a part of our church community or referred by a trusted source (police department, city government, etc.). Cold calls from the community for serve projects is a risk and should be limited, if not avoided altogether.
5. Skilled projects (home projects, nonprofit building / yard projects, etc) are a bit more complex. These should be vetted with the following guidelines to approve:

- a. If it is a home improvement project for a church member or referred community member, the homeowner must live in the property. No projects will be done for a rental property - this is the job of the landlord.
 - b. No projects will be approved for a landlord for property improvement to rent.
 - c. Homeowners must sign a release of liability form prior to consideration. The form is in the Serve Day folder in the drive. These should be kept on file for a minimum of 2 years in your Serve Day google drive folder for the corresponding year. This form should be carefully reviewed to make sure that all planned work is listed in the description of work to be completed.
 - d. If a skilled project is done for a nonprofit, they **MUST** own the building - again, no projects can be done for rental properties. Again, they must sign the release of liability form and those must be kept on file for a minimum of 2 years.
 - e. Persons who are assigned to the skilled project should have a skilled team leader who will guide the team to complete the project with excellence and not risk our reputation by doing substandard work.
6. Wins for projects include anything that an entire family with all (or most) ages can do together. These projects are somewhat difficult to curate, but campuses should share ideas and incorporate what we have learned over time. In no circumstance should a child be allowed to participate in a project that would endanger them such as one that requires power tools, etc.
 7. Milestone volunteers should **NOT** climb on roofs and not operate heavy equipment that they are not qualified for. All work completed on Serve Day is under a Milestone umbrella, thus liability is an issue and something to always consider when accepting projects.
 8. If completing projects in people's homes or business locations, those projects should be vetted ahead of time. In the case of single mom projects, a male should not go alone to vet the project. They may take a friend or a spouse, but there should always be at least two people that go together. This is both for the mom's and the volunteer's protection.
 9. Caution should be used in sharing the Team Leader personal information with the person they are serving on the Skilled Project Teams. This can be difficult, but often we have seen that the person being served continues to contact that leader throughout the year for additional needs. That should be made clear to the recipient prior to acceptance of the project. For example, explain that you are only being accepted for this one project and you are not to contact the team leader for additional needs without going through your campus leadership first.
 10. **IMPORTANT:** Encourage your small groups to come up with ideas for their small group to do together! They will know of more needs than you can identify and this is a great (and free) way to expand Serve Day reach without creating additional work for your team.

PROJECT IDEAS

This is a list of project ideas that you can give your small group leaders. These are projects that an individual or small group can do and fund on their own.

Begin by asking your small group members the following questions. Hopefully, the answers will help you develop a project that is a perfect fit for your group.

- Who in your neighborhood has a need?
- What business or organization within your sphere of influence could use a blessing?
- What project types best suit your group's ages and abilities?

General Ideas

- Host a free garage sale
- Bring free lunches to construction workers and servicemen in your area
- Clean up a widow's or single mom's yard
- Give out free bottled water, gum, packaged snacks, coffee, etc. at a local park.
- Host a free car wash
- Kids host a free kids toys and games garage sale
- Kids host a free lemonade stand
- Pancake breakfast for the neighborhood

Nursing Homes

- Deliver fresh flowers to the residents
- Host a worship service at a nursing home
- Landscape a flower garden and sitting area for resident
- Have kids make crafts (necklaces, wooden crosses) that can be given to residents
- Tea Party
- Help the residents complete care packages for foster kids

Special Needs/Youth Home

- Identify a family with a special needs child and give Mom & Dad a day out
- Adopt a group home for the day and throw a party for the residents
- Build a wheelchair ramp for handicapped
- Organize a field day for a group youth home

Street Outreach

- Do a community trash clean up
- Host a "Block Party" with free food, games, music, etc. for families
- Renovate a run-down playground or park in the area
- Do a door-to-door grocery giveaway

- Have a “Free Grass Cutting” day

Business/Service Organizations/Public Servicemen

- Wash windows
- Trash pick-up in parking lot
- Coral shopping carts to designated spaces
- Cook Lunch for your local police or fire station

Recommended Reading

For further inspiration you can get more ideas from these great books:

- *Servolution* by Dino Rizzo
- *Conspiracy of Kindness* by Steve Sjogren
- *The Cause Within You* by Matthew Barnett
- *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert