

Year of Service

Participate in one, a few, or all of Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast's (GSWISE) Year of Service themed community service projects with your troop, family, or friends. Feel free to adapt the monthly themed service projects if you have another idea that works better for you!

New projects for 2026-2027!

October

Fall Leaf Cleanup: Go to your local Parks and Recreation department and see if they need any help raking leaves to get the parks ready for winter. You can also see if any neighbors could use help raking.



February

Hydrant Dig Out: Scope out your neighborhood after it snows, and shovel out a fire hydrant so the fire department can access it easily in during an emergency.



November

Clothing Drive: Set up a clothing drive at your school, community center, library or shopping center. Collect warm clothes to help those in need for the winter months and donate to your local shelter.



March

Books are the Best: Read to others who might need help, like seniors at a senior living center or nursing home, or young kids at your local library or school, to introduce them to the joy of reading. You could even read to animals at your local animal shelter to help calm them.



December

Toy Drive: Host a toy drive to collect new toys to be donated to those in need during the holiday season. You can also collect new toys and donate them to the Ronald McDonald House for them to hand out to families that are staying there.



April

Adopt a Beach: Celebrate Earth Day on April 22 with a beach cleanup near you! In southeast Wisconsin, we have many beaches that could use our help to keep them clean not only for community members to use but also for wildlife that lives on or near the beaches.



January

Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service: The MLK Day of Service, the third Monday in January, is an opportunity to learn about Martin Luther King Jr. and to serve in your community to honor his legacy. Consider volunteering somewhere you can help others.



May

Shelter Helpers: Make toys for animal shelters or collect and donate old newspapers, towels, t-shirts, blankets, and other pet supplies after researching their needs. Older Girl Scouts might be able to help with animal playtime, cleaning cages, or walking the animals.



June

Sight and Hearing Solutions: Collect and donate old unwanted eyewear, prescription sunglasses, and hearing aids to be repurposed for people in developing countries. Research where you can drop off your donations in your community.



July

Fill a Backpack: Everyone deserves to start off the school year with the supplies they need. Set up a school supplies drive and set a goal to fill a certain number of backpacks to help support local school kids in your area.



August

Smiles with Seniors: Celebrate National Senior Citizens Day on August 21 by creating a spa day, organizing a board game night, hosting a sing-along, or planning a craft night with seniors at your local nursing home or senior living center.



September

Treats for Heroes: Make or purchase cookies, another dessert, or even a meal for local police, firefighters, or other first responder personnel in honor of National Day of Service on September 11.



National Service Projects

You can also get involved with Girl Scouts of the USA's National Service Projects by planting trees, honoring our everyday changemakers, fighting hunger, taking civic action, contributing to scientific research, letter-writing, and creating Valentine's Day cards for older adults. To learn more about our National Service Projects visit: [girlscouts.org/Discover/National Service Projects](https://girlscouts.org/Discover/National-Service-Projects).

Please note: the fun patches pictured are samples and may vary based on availability at the time of purchase.

Contact us with questions about the Year of Service at 800-565-4475 or customercare@gswise.org.

Optional: Go to <https://gswise.jotform.com/213556433091049> or use this QR code to complete a form to share your story with us each time you complete a service project. We might even showcase your project on our website, social media, or other online platforms!



Tips for Planning a Community Service Project:

- **Who will you be partnering with in the community?** Research organizations/businesses in your community that can benefit from your efforts. Find out exactly what their needs are so you can put your time into what matters most for them.
- **What is your goal?** How many people do you want to benefit from your project? If you do a collection drive, how many items do you want to collect?
- **Who else will you involve in your project?** What other people can you involve who will help you reach your goal? This could be family, friends, classmates, sister Girl Scouts, dance or sports teammates, community groups, etc.
- **What is your timeframe?** How much time will you need to plan your service project? How much time will you need to promote? How much time will you give for collecting items if you do a collection drive? Determine the best time of year for your project based on our Midwest seasons. If scheduling an event, what is the best day/time for your event?
- **What steps do you have to take?** Think of all the individual tasks you need to complete to carry out your service project. Some tasks might need to be completed before other tasks, while other tasks can be completed at the same time.
- **What supplies are needed and how much will everything cost?** Service projects don't need to have a lot of expenses, but if your project does require supplies/materials or involves fees, estimate all the costs in advance and determine how you will fund your project.
- **Are you doing a collection drive?** Did you connect with the business/organization you are collecting items for to determine exactly what types of things they need the most? What is the drop-off location where people should bring their donations to be collected (school office, church meeting room, local police station, village hall, etc.)? What are you collecting the items in (bin, box, other), and do you have access to a collection container(s)? Do you have a plan for when you'll go back to pick-up the items that are donated? And do you know what organization you will be donating the items to?
- **How will you advertise and promote?** How can you get the word out about your service project (school announcements, design and print a flyer, school newsletter, church bulletin, calling/texting friends and family, etc.)? What should all be included in your promotion?
- **How will you celebrate?** How can you share your success stories to celebrate your accomplishments?