

# SERVICE PROJECTS



## SERVICE PROJECTS

Service projects allow us to interact and connect with our local communities in fun and rewarding ways. They provide us with empowering opportunities to make a difference and raise awareness of the importance of getting involved without asking for or expecting a reward. Create a positive change by helping others in your community and learn new skills at the same time. Try to participate in at least three service projects each Guiding year: an environmental service project, a community service project, and a global service project. Consider doing good turns, lending a hand, participating in random acts of kindness and create service projects.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE PROJECTS

Take action to protect our planet and make it a healthy place for future generations while learning about environmental stewardship.

### 1. **Yellow Fish Road**

<https://tucanada.org/yellow-fish-road>

Paint the yellow fish symbol along storm drains in the neighbourhood. Contact Trout Unlimited Canada or call 1-800-909-6040 to obtain storm drain materials. Trout Unlimited Canada will also send crests for this service project.



**Yellow Fish Road™**  
Trout Unlimited Canada



### 2. **Pitch In Canada**

Pitch-In week is in April each year. You must register to get complimentary Pitch-In Week garbage and clear recycling bags to help with the clean-up. There are also crests available.



**PITCH-IN  
CANADA**

### 3. Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup

<https://www.shorelinecleanup.ca>

This environmental initiative is in collaboration with the Vancouver Aquarium. You must register your cleanup event and site online. During your shoreline cleanup, you will collect both data and garbage and record that online. Once you have completed the cleanup, submit the data collected online and the Vancouver Aquarium will send you some special crests for all the participants.



Photo Credit: Van Chau

#### 4. **TD FEF Tree Planting Grant**

This is a hands-on way to transform green spaces in the community. It brings girls and leaders closer to nature and make them more aware of environmental stewardship. You can send in an application to receive up to \$2500 from GGC to plant trees. This is a great opportunity to bridge with other branches. Have the Guides or Pathfinders help Sparks and Brownies plant trees. Once approved, you will need to contact the municipality to choose a location and to purchase the trees to be planted. There is usually an email in September from Girl Guides of Canada announcing this Tree Planting Grant.



Photo Credit: Van Chau

## 5. TD Tree Days

<https://www.tdtreedays.com>

This annual event is organized by TD and all the tree planting equipment (e.g. shovels, gloves, etc.) and trees are provided. You must register online to participate in this event. There are various locations at different dates and times. Participants usually get a free T-shirt for helping out with the tree planting event.



Photo Credit: Van Chau

## 6. Adopt-a-Program

This volunteer-based program helps increase community awareness and promotes litter pickup and landscape beautification. You will need to complete an Adoption Application Package to participate in the Adopt-a-Program.

**Adopt-a-Park** Select a park and pick up litter at least twice a month.

**Adopt-a-Street** Select 1 km of municipal roadway and pick-up trash and litter at least once a month.

**Adopt-a-Trail** Pick up trash at least twice a month.

**Adopt-a-Creek** Pick up trash at least four times a year.

**Adopt-a-Block** Keep a neighbourhood clean, safe and attractive.



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adopt-a-**program**

## 7. **Build Animal Habitats**

Build animal habitats (e.g. bat boxes, duck nesting boxes, bird houses, etc.) and install them in designated areas. Ask for help from a community partner.

### a. **Bat Box**

Build a bat box so that it provides a place for bats to raise their babies.

*Instructions on How to Build a Bat Box (National Wildlife Federation):*

<https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Cover/Build-a-Bat-House>

### b. **Duck Nest Box**

Build a duck box for cavity nesting ducks (e.g. Wood Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser).

*Instructions on How to Build a Duck Nest Box (Ducks Unlimited Canada):*

<http://www.ducks.ca/assets/2016/01/duckbox.pdf>

*Instructions on How to Build a Duck Nest Box (Canadian Wildlife Federation):*

[http://cwf-fcf.org/assets/pdf/en/educate/handout\\_for\\_nest-boxes.pdf](http://cwf-fcf.org/assets/pdf/en/educate/handout_for_nest-boxes.pdf)

### c. **Bird House**

Take your unit to Home Depot and build a bird house from their ready-made kits. Let the experts help the girls with this free hands-on activity.

### d. **Mason Bee House**

Build a mason bee house to allow mason bees to reproduce and gather pollen and nectar.

*Instructions on How to Build a Mason Bee House (Gardener's Supply Company):*

<https://www.gardeners.com/how-to/instructions-mason-bee-house/8085.html>

### e. **Bird Feeders**

Make a bird feeder and place it in a park.

*Instructions on How to Make a Bird Feeder:*

<http://www.birdwatching-bliss.com/free-bird-feeder-plans.html>

## 8. **Invasive Weed Pulling**

Help clear an area by getting rid of some non-native invasive species (eg. Himalayan Blackberry, English holly, English ivy, etc.). Help eliminate these plants that are a threat to biodiversity globally. Put on some gardening gloves and eye protection and have fun clearing an area.

*Lower Mainland Green Team Meetup:*

<https://www.meetup.com/The-Lower-Mainland-Green-Team/?scroll=true>

The Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES) in Vancouver sponsors the Stanley Park Eco-Stewards Program to eradicate the spread of non-native invasive species. This is to help restore the ecosystem for native plant species. They pull the invasive English Ivy.

*Stanley Park Eco-Stewards Program:*

<http://stanleyparkecology.ca/conservation/stewardship-in-action/invasive-species-removal/>

The Holly Haulers from the Pacific Spirit Regional Park in Vancouver combat invasive species by removing English holly from the park. They cut down all the branches on the holly tree and then destroy the plant by pulling the roots out of the ground.

*Holly Haulers:*

<https://www.pacificparklands.com/project/unwelcome-visitors/>

## 9. **Bog Restoration**

Help restore unique ecosystems like bogs in the Lower Mainland. Join the Crazy Boggers and everything there is to know about the flora and fauna of Camosun Bog in Vancouver. You can also learn about bog restoration at Burns Bog in Delta.

*Camosun Bog's Crazy Boggers:*

<https://www.pacificparklands.com/project/camosun-bog/>

*Burn's Bog Conservation Society:*

<http://www.burnsbog.org/>

## 10. **Build a Trail**

With permission, build a trail at a local Girl Guide camp. Consider points of interest and special features along the trail (e.g. nurse trees, streams, etc.) as your unit work on building the trail for everyone else to enjoy.

## 11. **Conservation Centre and Wildlife Area**

Volunteer at a local Conservation Centre or Wildlife Area. Learn what is being done to preserve and conserve the local ecosystem and biodiversity.

## 12. **Daffodils and Cancer**

Plant daffodils in the community (e.g. at a local park, at City Hall, or a community centre) to raise cancer awareness.



# COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Lend a helping hand by getting involved with your local community. Show how Guiding gives back to the community.

## 1. Hike for Hunger

Gather non-perishable food items for the local food bank. Hike together with other Girl Guides and Scouts for this worthy cause.



## 2. Valentines for Vets

[www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/get-involved/valentines-for-veterans](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/get-involved/valentines-for-veterans)

Make valentine cards or send peace postcards to War Vets.

### ***Tips for making cards:***

- do not include candy or chocolate
- sign their name, indicate their age and the school they attend
- send all the Valentines in one large envelope
- do not put the date or the year
- do not draw violent images such as guns and tombstones

### ***Messages to be included:***

- thank the vets for their service and sacrifice
- write a thoughtful poem
- pick card sizes that are easy to hand and package

### ***Send the cards to:***

Veterans Affairs Canada  
Commemoration  
PO Box 7700  
Charlottetown, PEI  
C1A 8M9



## 3. Christmas Cards for Seniors

Make Christmas cards for seniors through CareBC. They will deliver the cards to seniors during the Christmas holidays to show that you care. Send the homemade cards to:

CareBC  
#204-3077 Granville Street  
Vancouver, BC V6H 3J9



#### 4. **Christmas Caroling**

Gather several units and sing at a senior home or go around the neighbourhood. Entertain people by singing to them. Show Christmas spirit by wearing Santa hats, elf hats, or reindeer antlers. After the caroling is done, the girls can serve tea, sit and chat, or play cards with the seniors at the senior home.

#### 5. **Care Packages and Hygiene Kits for Women's Shelter**

Help women, who have fled from domestic violence, regain their confidence as they put their lives back together. Donate a variety of items to a women's shelter.

**"Need Items"** – Put together basic necessities (e.g. toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, mouth wash, shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, sanitary napkins, etc.) for a women's shelter.

**"Want Items"** – Gather items that will make women feel special like nail polish, and file, hair accessories, scarves, mitts, hats, purses, perfume, etc.

**"Baking Items"** – Gather ingredients that will allow women to bake (e.g. flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, chocolate chips, icing, etc.) or consider making a "Cookies-in-a-jar" that is filled with all the dry ingredients to bake something.

**"Activity Items"** – Gather things that will allow women to pass the time with (eg. adult colouring books, sketch books, craft supplies, knitting needles, yarn, reading books, etc.).

#### 6. **Handbags of Hope**

Gather gently used, unwanted purses from your friends, family, and colleagues. Fill the purses with wallets, lipsticks, travel size personal hygiene items (e.g. toothpaste, lip balm), manicure sets, hair brushes, and tissue packages. Donate the purses to women and teens living at local shelters.

#### 7. **Covenant House**

Collect food, clothing, and hygiene supplies for homeless youth who have left their homes because of physical, emotional and sexual abuse.



## 8. **Blankets for Project Linus**

[www.projectlinuscanada.org](http://www.projectlinuscanada.org)

Make a no sew fleece blankets, handmade quilts, or knitted Afghans and donate them to Project Linus. Make sure that the blankets are homemade, washable and free of pins. The blankets will be given as gifts to seriously ill and traumatized children between the age of 0 and 17. Locations around BC are in Kamloops, New Westminster, North Delta, North Vancouver, Richmond, Okanagan Valley and Vancouver Island.

### **Project ♥ Linus**



**“Providing Security Through Blankets”**

## 9. **Pet Toys**

Make homemade DIY pet toys and donate them to a Humane Society that rescues animals and provides them with social and physical rehabilitation.

Examples of pet toys include:

- a. no sew denim braided dog toy
- b. tennis ball on a rope toy
- c. t-shirt dog rope
- d. fleece dog chew
- e. three-sided pull toy
- f. chew ring

## 10. **Dog and Cat Biscuits**

Find a recipe for dog and cat biscuits on the internet. Bake the biscuits for the animals and drop them off at the SPCA or Humane Society.

## 11. **SPCA or Humane Society**

Volunteer your time at the local SPCA or Humane Society. Help clean out the kennels, feed the animals and play with the animals. Organize a Pet Toy Drive or a Pet Food Drive for the SPCA or Humane Society and collect all these items.

## 12. **Baby Gift Baskets for the Intensive Care Unit (ICU)**

Buy baby items (e.g. diapers, wipes, bath towels, shampoo, lotion, soap, bottles, baby blankets, etc.) and place them into a baby wash bin or a basket. Deliver the gift baskets to the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at Children’s Hospital. This might brighten new parents’ spirits when times are difficult.

### 13. **Community Gardens**

Help care for a community garden by pulling weeds and planting seeds. Maintain the garden on a weekly or biweekly basis. An alternative is to go to seniors homes and rake the leaves on their lawns.

### 14. **Food Bank**

Collect non-perishable food items for the local food bank. Then help them sort and package the food for distribution. Try to donate at times other than Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Use Girl Guide cookie cases to put together baby items (e.g. diapers, wipes, baby food, etc.) for new parents.



Photo Credit: Van Chau

### 15. **Soup Kitchens / Community Kitchens**

Help serve food to those who are less fortunate at a soup kitchen or meal center.

### 16. **Host a Drive**

Gather different items by holding a variety of drives. Donate them to a school, community center, food bank or a shelter.

- a. Book Drive
- b. Coat Drive
- c. Blanket Drive
- d. Christmas Toy Drive
- e. School Supplies Drive

### 17. **Trash Can Painting**

See if a local park needs any of their trash cans painted. Offer your time and creativity to beautify the local playing space.



18. **Picnic Table Painting**

Sand down and paint old picnic tables at a local park.

19. **Graffiti Wall Painting**

Ask local municipal councils for permission to paint over a wall covered in graffiti. Promote positive messages in the painting.

20. **Eyeglass Recycling**

<https://twecs.weebly.com/eyeglass-recycling.html>

Collect used eyeglasses and donate them to Third World Eye Care Society. The TWECS team will go to developing countries and provide basic eye care and hand out recycled eyeglasses to people who are in need of them. In some communities, the Lions also provide boxes to collect eyeglasses.



21. **Plan Canada - Because I'm a Girl Project**

<https://plancanada.ca/because-i-am-a-girl>

Help raise awareness of global issues by buying a “gift of hope for girls” through Plan Canada’s “Because I’m a Girl” project. Help empower girls all around the world. Advocate ending child marriage, to break down gender stereotypes and to close the gap on pay equality.



22. **Tray Decorations**

Make tray decorations for hospital patients or for churches.

23. **Adopt a Family**

Adopt a family at Christmas by putting together a Christmas food hamper with some of the basic essentials.

## 24. **Book Bags**

Promote literacy by having a book drive or organizing a book exchange. Gather any leftover books and create themed book bags (e.g. Valentine's, Easter, Christmas, Dr. Seuss, etc.). Donate the book bags to Children's Hospital or to a Shelter.

## 25. **Book-Sharing Boxes**

Build a "book-sharing box" (take a book, leave a book) in front of a school or somewhere in the community. Try to use recycle and found materials to reduce your carbon footprint. Use green building techniques and materials.

*Tips on How to Build a Book-Sharing Box:*

<https://littlefreelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/BuilderTips.pdf>

*Blueprints and Measurements for Book-Sharing Box:*

<https://littlefreelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/LFL-Building-Design-6.17.13.pdf>

## 26. **Goodnight Bags**

Collect items used by children (e.g. stuffed animals, toys, small blankets, storybooks, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.). Donate these items to Children's Hospital, the food bank or a women's shelter. These items will help comfort children undergoing some stressful times in their lives.

## 27. **Birthday-in-a-Box**

Buy items (e.g. cake mix, candles, party hats, streamers, small toys/gifts, etc.) to help children celebrate their birthdays. Divide your unit into groups of 4-5 girls. Have them pick a theme for their Birthday-in-a-Box and whether the birthday will be for a boy or a girl. Then have the 4-5 girls buy items for the Birthday-in-a-Box. Once everything is bought, have them place all the items into a huge birthday bag or a plain white box and decorate the birthday box. Donate the Birthday-in-a-Box to a local food bank.

Possible themes for a birthday: Star Wars, Disney Princesses, Frozen, Emoji, Minions, Batman, Superman, Spiderman, Fairies, Cars, Sports, Mickey Mouse, Dinosaurs, Under the Sea, Mermaids, and Trolls.

Items to go into the Birthday-in-a-Box: party plates, cups, party hats, spoons, forks, knives, table cloths, birthday invitations, noise makers, candles, balloons, streamers, banners, goody bags, toys for goody bags, cake mix, icing, and cupcake liners.

## 28. **School Kits**

Collect school supplies for underdeveloped countries. Items to collect may include: pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, pencil crayons, felts, notebooks, calculators, glue sticks, and geometry sets. Place them in boxes or bags and donate them to a local mission.

## 29. **Warmth for the Homeless**

Arm knit infinity scarves for the homeless. Finger knit mittens, toques and socks. Make braided blankets and donate to local shelters or organizations serving the homeless.

*Video on How to Arm Knit an Infinity Scarf:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPer3Xv2QSM>

## 30. **Canadian Services Blood Drive**

<https://blood.ca/en>

Help out at a Canadian Services Blood Drive. Greet blood donors at a donor clinic and make conversations with them. Make them feel welcome so that they will return in the future.

## 31. **Hygiene Kits for International Relief**

Collect hygiene items and create kits for the Red Cross or International Relief efforts. Hygiene items may include: toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, dental floss, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, sanitary napkins, tampons, tissue paper, bandages, etc. These are designed to help with basic needs when someone has suffered a personal disaster or a community has suffered a disaster.

## 32. **Beanies for Babies**

Knit beanies for babies and donate them to Children's Hospital ICU.

*Instructions on How to Knit a Beanie:*

<https://crafts.tutsplus.com/tutorials/how-to-knit-an-easy-beanie--craft-16092>

## 33. **Sock Monkeys and Boo Boo Bunnies**

Make handmade sock monkeys or boo boo bunnies for sick children. A sock monkey is a stuffed toy made from socks with extra long limbs and red lips. A boo boo bunny is usually made of a face cloth and is used as an ice pack.

*Video on How to Make a Classic Sock Monkey:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWCWHg4K-oU>

*Instructions on How to Make Boo Boo Bunnies:*

<http://www.instructables.com/id/BOO-BOO-BUNNIES/>

34. **Buckets of Joy**

Fill ice cream buckets with art supplies and donate them to a shelter or Children's Hospital. Art supplies may include: colouring books, pencil crayons, pencils, paint, paint brushes, paper, sketch books, etc.

35. **Mitten/Glove Tree**

Collect mittens and gloves and decorate a Christmas tree with these accessories instead of Christmas decorations. The mittens can be handmade, knitted or store bought. Attach a little message to them to brighten a homeless person's day.



36. **African AIDS Angels**

[www.aidsangelsvictoria.ca](http://www.aidsangelsvictoria.ca)

Make colourful angels out of pegs and fabric. These angels will be exchanged for donations that will go towards supporting African families affected by HIV and AIDS.

37. **Me to We**

<https://www.metowe.com>

Me to We helps bring global awareness of humanitarian efforts around the world. Me to We provides leadership training and meaningful experiences through youth volunteer trips to developing countries.



38. **Habitat for Humanity**

<https://www.habitatgv.ca/applytovolunteer>

Habitat for Humanity helps build safe and affordable housing to those who are less fortunate. Help build a house, stock shelves at one of the ReStores.



## COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Lend a hand and volunteer at various community celebrations throughout the year.

### 1. **Canada Day Celebration**

Hand out Canada Day souvenir (eg. stickers, tattoos, pins, etc.) to promote Canada Day. Wear your GGC uniform and be Guiding ambassadors.



### 2. **Children's Festival**

<http://www.childrensfestival.ca/>

Help out with various activities at the Children's Festival.

### 3. **Races and Benefit Runs**

Volunteer to help at the Vancouver Sun Run, BMO Vancouver Marathon, or Run for the Cure. Volunteer to assist with: checking in participants, issue claim tags, collect fees, providing directions to spectators, marshalling participants, distribute race numbers, shirts and racing packages, distribute water to runners, distribute food samples and help clean up.

*Vancouver Sun Run:*

<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/sunrun/index.html>

*BMO Vancouver Marathon:*

<http://bmovanmarathon.ca/>

*Run for the Cure:*

[http://cibcrunforthe.cure.supportcbcf.com/site/PageServer?pagename=2017\\_home](http://cibcrunforthe.cure.supportcbcf.com/site/PageServer?pagename=2017_home)

### 4. **Remembrance Day Ceremony**

Take part in a Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 11. Make wreaths to place on the cenotaph.



REMEMBRANCE DAY  
*Let Us Not Forget*



## GUIDING IN YOUR DISTRICT OR AREA

Participate in various activities in your district or area to promote the public's awareness of Guiding and to grow Guiding.

### 1. **Decorate a Float**

Gather materials and help decorate a float for a parade (e.g. Santa Claus Parade, Christmas Parade, Easter Parade, May Day Parade, Canada Day Parade, Pride Parade, etc.) to promote Guiding in your community.

### 2. **Plan a District Event**

Plan, organize and run **District Thinking Day** or **District Advancement Ceremony** for all the branches in Guiding.

Plan and organize **District Camp** for everyone to enjoy. Run craft stations, games and activities. Plan the menu and seek out Quartermasters for the camp.

Plan a **Camp Skills Day** for younger branches. Cover the following things: how to make a bedroll, how to make fire starters, how to use light a camp stove, how to light a propane lantern, how to set up a tent, how to tie knots, how to do storm lashing, how to make gadgets, how to put up a shelter, and how to pack for camp.

Run a **STEAM Night** for girls. Carry out fun experiments or hands-on activities (e.g. marshmallow structures, catapults, paper airplanes, elephant's toothpaste, etc.) for the younger branches. Prep materials for each activity to promote STEAM.

### 3. **PR Tent or Booth**

Organize and plan a PR tent or booth at a local community event. Hand out GGC brochures and recruitment materials. Run a craft station for younger girls to get them excited about joining GGC.

### 4. **Girl Guide Camp Work Weekend**

Volunteer at a Girl Guide Camp Work Weekend. Help maintain a camp by offering to gather and cut firewood. Build, sand, and paint picnic tables and benches. Help maintain an existing trail.

5. **Collect Money for CWFF or Another WAGGGS Country**

Find a creative way to collect money for the Canadian World Friendship Fund (CWFF) or for a WAGGGS Country. For example, hold a craft fair and donate the proceeds to CWFF, host a District Thinking Day dinner and donate the money raised to CWFF. Hold a nickel auction for CWFF. Perhaps tie in the WAGGGS Thinking Day theme for the year.



6. **Postcard Exchange with Other WAGGGS Countries**

[www.mythinkingday.com](http://www.mythinkingday.com)

Exchange postcards or letter exchange all around the world through the International Thinking Day Postcard Exchange. You will need to register your email and a list of participants will be emailed to you. Each unit will be responsible for contacting troops and units by email and exchanging mailing addresses.

