

TROOP 202 SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

The teaching of service is not merely a matter of teaching in theory, but the development of two distinct phases -- the inculcation of the spirit of goodwill; and the provision of opportunity for its expression in practice. - Lord Baden-Powell, Aids to Scoutmastership.

Service to others is a fundamental value that leads right to the heart of Scouting; the twin aims of Citizenship and Character. The Scout Oath specifically mentions helping others. The discovery that volunteer service can be rewarding is an important milestone along the road that leads from boy to Eagle. One of the goals of Scouting is to provide service to the community and to instill the habit of service in the Scout. This typically leads to a more service-oriented adult.

Cambridge Dictionary definition of Service: to provide something that is needed; work done without payment to help another

Troop 202 definition of service: an activity that benefits others on a charitable level without any direct benefit (financial or otherwise) to the Scout

- Example of appropriate service: helping to distribute popcorn at the warehouse to troops and packs because it benefits others in the community and not the Scout directly
- Example of inappropriate service: selling Scout popcorn because (although it benefits others) it financially benefits the Scout directly

As shown in this second example, an activity can have merit and still not be considered “service.”

The ideal service project will meet several criteria:

- The recipient of the service truly values the effort. If not, the Scout will soon discover that he is being patronized and will lose interest.
- The Scout sees the work as being a valuable contribution in which he can take pride. "Make-work" will not have much value.
- The work appeals to the Scout and is something he wants to do. However, not every project needs to be "cool."
- The project should stretch the Scout's abilities, but not be so difficult that he will be unable to do the work.
- And of course, the project should be done cheerfully and with no thought of reward.

This document lists organizations that welcome Scouts and their service projects. It is not intended to be an inclusive list but rather a demonstration of the range of activities that are available in our community. Other projects may be added to the list as the need and occasion arise. Projects that are marked with an asterisk need prior approval by the Scoutmaster. Scouts may also suggest projects, but these must be pre-approved by the Scoutmaster. No service hours will be granted if the service activity is used as a credit by another organization (e.g. National Honor Society, or a school class). Projects overseen by an adult outside of Scouting need to be confirmed in writing by this person (dated and signed form), and this documentation needs to be

provided to the Scoutmaster or his designee (perhaps the Troop Advancement Chair or Troop Activities Coordinator) upon completion of the activity.

The list shows the name and location of the organization, the name of a contact person, whether prior Scoutmaster approval is required, if the organization would prefer that a parent or registered Scout leader be present, and a brief description of typical projects. So, the next time a Scout asks, "What can I do for a service project?" here are several answers.

Service Opportunities

Name of Organization (Time of Year)	Location	Contact	Parent or Leader Required	Description of Project
St. Elizabeth Seton KofC Fish Fry Dinners	St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church	Sign-up online	Yes	Cleaning tables at Lenten Fish Fry Dinners
BSA Scouting for Food	In the community	Sign-up online	Yes	Picking up non-perishable food from community
BSA Popcorn Distribution	In the community	Troop 202 Popcorn Kernel	Yes	Distribution at warehouse to troops and packs
Pinewood Derby	Various Cub Scout packs	Den Chiefs	Yes	Assisting with Pinewood Derbies
Habitat for Humanity (year-round; older Scouts only)	Various Sites	Troop Service Committee Chair	Yes	Assisting with lunch preparation and possibly with building projects
Care Packages for US Military (year-round)	Various Sites	Troop Service Committee Chair	Yes	Collecting and packaging items to be sent
St. Elizabeth Seton Food Pantry (year round)	St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church	Troop Service Committee Chair	Yes	Collecting and organizing food pantry items
BSA Eagle Scout Projects	Various Sites	Eagle candidate with approved project	Yes	Assisting fellow Scouts with their Eagle projects
Troop 202 building projects at selected camps	Sites including BSA and private properties	Scoutmaster and adults organizing campouts	Yes	Projects on selected outings
Troop service for chartered organization	St. Elizabeth Seton Church	Troop Service Committee Chair	Yes	Projects on the grounds of the church