Roundtable Hot Topic

SERVICE AND GRATITUDE

Participating in service projects is one way that Scouts keep their promise "to help other people at all times". As we approach the holiday season, it is important to take time to consider all the good in our lives. Being of service is a great way to act on those feelings of gratitude. Scouts and their units can give back in many ways: service to the chartered organization, to the community, or to the world. Time spent on service projects should be enjoyable, age appropriate and relevant to help ensure a meaningful experience.

Some ways to give back to the chartered organization:
- Conduct a clean-up project around the grounds, including litter pick-up and landscaping maintenance
- Help with set-up or break-down for a special service or event
- Offer to serve refreshments or hand out bulletins at a service if your chartered organization is a place of worship
- Ask if any members of the chartered organization need help with tasks like raking leaves or other yard maintenance

Some ways to give back to the community:
- Perform a flag ceremony for a school event
- Collect food or supplies for a foodbank
- Make and deliver greeting cards for military personnel or nursing home patients
- Volunteer for recovery efforts after storms or other disasters

Some ways to give back to our world:
- Participate in beautification projects for parks or other public spaces
- Perform maintenance projects for your favorite campgrounds
- Hold a recyclables drive for paper, glass, aluminum, or plastic items
- Make animal habitats for a nature preserve

As with all Scouting events, always ask for permission before you begin. A brief discussion with the beneficiary can help ensure the intended project is necessary and safe. Safety is essential in planning and executing service projects. A variety of resources are available to help ensure service project safety:

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-027.pdf
https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safe/