



Community Service

We're excited to share these wonderful community organizations and area businesses that love to work with our girls. These programs will give your troop the chance to learn from experts. GSHNC staff will not be present at these locations. Please contact these organizations directly and remind your girls to be well-behaved, kind and courteous! We want to continue to make a great impression on our community.

A Child's Place - All

A Child's Place works to erase the impact of homelessness on children and their education. ACP provides educational support services to elementary and middle school students. We ensure that they have all the resources to address their academic, behavioral, and health needs allowing them to succeed in school. Your troop can collect donations such as snacks, school supplies, clothing, and hygiene items or contact the number below to set up a time to help sort items/donations.

WHERE: 601 East Fifth Street, Uptown Charlotte

CONTACT: 704-343-3790 or visit www.achildsplace.org

Adam's Animals - All

Adam's Animals is a non-profit organization that collects and donates new stuffed animals to sick children in the hospital. It started when a young man named Adam was going through chemotherapy and kept a stuffed frog on his shoulder for comfort. His parents carried on this tradition with other children. Jenna Harper started the Morgan Chapter in memory of her sister. Morgan was in the hospital at the same time as Adam and one of the first to benefit from the program.

CONTACT: smiles@adamsanimals.org

Drop off at Turtle Car Wash & Wax - 8750 Pineville-Matthews Rd, Pineville, NC 28226 (behind Pizza Hut and KFC) - 704-544-1504. Have fun and help out at the same time at Build-A-Bear! They offer a 10% discount if you are donating your animal to a sick child. Go to www.buildabear.com to schedule a workshop at the store nearest you!

Aldersgate Continuing Care Retirement Community - C, S, A

Located in East Charlotte, Aldersgate has Junior Volunteer opportunities available for ages 13-18 who have a positive and helpful outlook to work with Seniors. Help is needed to share musical talent, play games, read, garden, go for walks and many other activities. There is also an "Adopt a Grandparent" program for residents who no longer have family or whose family members live too far away to visit. Please schedule one month in advance.

CONTACT: Brian Gardner at 3800 Shamrock Dr, Charlotte, NC 28215; 704-532-7000; briang@aldersgateccrc.com or visit www.aldersgateccrc.com for more information.

American Red Cross - All

Blood Drives - The American Red Cross will help you coordinate a blood drive in your community or assist at an already-scheduled blood drive. Troops can provide the location for a blood drive or snacks for the canteen. Bake homemade cookies for our blood donors to enjoy in the canteen. The donors really enjoy the extra treat and many of them seem to donate just for the cookies! Patch Program - Call any of these chapters for assistance on the Together We Prepare Patch Program. (See your FYI)

-Anson County - 704-694-3514

-Cabarrus County - 704-782-9022

-Mecklenburg County - 704-376-1661

-Montgomery County - 910-576-1000

-Rowan County - 704-633-3854

-Stanly County - 704-982-0070

-Union County - 704-283-7402

-York County - 803-329-6575

Carriage Club of Charlotte - J, C, S, A

Carriage Club of Charlotte is an assisted and independent living facility for older adults. Weekend volunteers are always needed to play bingo, cards or checkers or do a puzzle or craft with our assisted living residents or long

term health care residents. The Activities Department will welcome you to meet with our residents on a one time basis or more frequently throughout the year.

CONTACT: Jaynie Segal at jsegal@arclp.com or 704-365-8551

Charlotte Eagles Soccer Club - J, C, S, A, Adults

CESC is a professional men's soccer team and an elite women's soccer team, looking for volunteer clean-up crews after each game. Troops who would like to volunteer for one or more games will receive free admission to those games. Troops will need to provide their own supervision. CESC will provide rubber gloves & trash bags to the clean-up crew.

WHEN: Call for game dates, or visit www.charlotteeagles.com. Clean-up takes 20-30 minutes after the game.

Summer games often are double-headers (both teams play in the same night). The last game usually ends around 9:30 pm and clean-up may take until 10 pm or later. It is a safe environment, with many fans still getting autographs and game day staff staying late.

CONTACT: Allan Courtright at 704-841-8644 ext 30 or acourtright@charlotteeagles.com

Charlotte Emergency Housing (CEH) - All

Charlotte Emergency Housing is a shelter for homeless families. CEH needs volunteers to do yard work, indoor cleaning, and activities with the children in the house or to provide dinner for the entire house (about 50 people, mostly children). CEH would also benefit from any type of collection drive (food, kitchen items, linens and baby care items). Girls as young as age 5 can help (as long as they are accompanied by chaperones).

CONTACT: nancyj@charlotteemergencyhousing.org

Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Care and Control - All

An ongoing project of the CMACC is to provide dog houses to underprivileged outside dogs who do not have adequate shelter. Donated dog houses are collected and distributed to needy dogs. CMACC also works with Friends of Feral Felines, who provide food, shelter, and spay/neuter surgeries to cats. Shelters are also needed for cats. If any troop would like to build dog houses or cat shelters as a troop project, please contact CMACC. CMACC will provide troops with approved plans for the houses/shelters. Supplies may be available for troops to build houses/shelters depending on the donations CMACC has received.

CONTACT: Wanda Burton at 704-393-0872

Children's Theatre of Charlotte Volunteer Usher Program - C, S, A

Older girls can complete an application for the program online at www.ctcharlotte.org.

Responsibilities of an usher:

Arrive at least one hour prior to the performance, wearing black pants or skirt and a white top. Upon arrival, you will be given an usher badge, apron and a flashlight (for assisting any patrons that need to leave the theatre during the performance) and a glove (for picking up anything left in the theatre after the performance). The House Manager will give you a diagram of the theatre and information about ushering in general, and then direct you to the theatre, show you where your position is located, and go over evacuation procedures. During the performance, remain alert in order to assist the patrons with any situations that arise. After the performance, the ushers go over the theatre to make sure it is ready for the next show.

CONTACT: usherinfo@ctcharlotte.org or 704-973-2832 for more details

Classroom Central - All

Be a collection site and ask all Girl Scout troops in your service unit to clean off their bookshelves or purchase new books. Bring the books to Classroom Central, Mon-Thurs, 8am-12pm and give thousands of children the opportunity to read!

CONTACT: Yohana Lovern, 704-377-1740 ext 14, yohana@classroomcentral.org

Comfort Socks - All

Help the Homeless by collecting new socks.

Comfort Socks is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides new socks to homeless shelters all across the United States. Our mission is simple, Comfort. We believe that warmth and comfort of new socks will help tend to the soul as well as the body of someone going through a difficult time. Comfort Socks welcomes volunteers to organize sock drives and spread the word about our work. Socks can be sent to:

Comfort Socks

207 Clubhouse Dr. SW

Supply, NC 28462

CONTACT: To learn how you can help, please see our website at www.comfortsocksonline.org or contact founder and director, Theresa Tese at 910-269-8577; email: Theresa@comfortsocksonline.org.

Community Blood Center of the Carolinas - All

Community Blood Center of the Carolinas is the primary blood supplier to 14 of the area's hospitals. All of the blood that we collect stays in the community for local patient use. Please consider supporting your local blood bank.

CONTACT: Karen Calder at 704-972-4709 or kcalder@cbcc.us to sponsor a community drive or for other opportunities to support the CBCC.

Conservation Events Calendar - All

See page 7 below for a calendar of national conservation events that will allow you to help the environment. Visit the websites listed next to each event to plan your own or your troop's community service project for each event.

Crisis Assistance Ministry - All

Volunteers are a vital part of the work performed daily, bringing a variety of talents and skills that benefit people in need in tremendous ways. Whether sorting and inspecting clothes, interviewing a person in need of financial assistance, filing or organizing a unique event, volunteers work side-by-side with the staff to create a family of service providers.

CONTACT: volunteer@crisisassistance.org for further details.

Feed the Children, Inc. - All

Call Feed the Children for special project ideas and see how you can brighten the lives of children in the USA. Opportunities include the following: Kids Stuff USA (shoebox projects); collecting used eyeglasses; knitting, sewing or crocheting baby blankets; collecting flashlights, etc. for disaster relief boxes or items for first aid kits. Girls who complete a project will receive a Feed the Children patch (not a GS patch program). School supplies are also much needed. No amount is too small or large!

CONTACT: Shauna Jones, Special Projects & Events Coordinator, at 405-949-5162, shauna.jones@feedthechildren.org; 333 N Meridian Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73107, www.feedthechildren.org

Historic Rosedale - J, C, S

Historic Rosedale Plantation is a circa-1815 plantation house run by a private non-profit foundation dedicated to preserving and maintaining the plantation house and grounds for educational purposes. Volunteers will assist with grounds work and gardening.

WHERE: 3427 North Tryon St, Charlotte

CONTACT: 704-335-0325

Keep Mecklenburg Beautiful - All

There are many things to do around schools and neighborhoods to keep them clean and healthy: set an example by not littering, help clean up a spot, and learn about safe ways to handle trash. Be part of the Great American Clean-Up! Opportunities are wide ranging, so leaders should pick an area of interest to their particular group as they will be more passionate about helping with the clean-up and asking others to help. Keep Mecklenburg Beautiful will provide you with garbage bags, gloves, stickers and educational materials.

Supplementary Project Ideas:

-Mathematics - Take measurements from the litter to the nearest trash receptacle. Create categories of litter and chart the results using graphs, percentages, charts, etc. Weigh items collected.

-Language Arts - Creative writing assignments from the litter's perspective, types of people who litter, etc. Make litter awareness posters for school campus.

-Science - Study biodegradability of certain litter types, paper vs. gum, etc.

WHEN: The Great American Clean-Up runs from March 1 through May 31. Groups arrange the time and place for the clean-up.

CONTACT: Jake Wilson at jake.wilson@mecklenburgcountync.gov or 704-621-7372 for more information or registration forms; 700 N. Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28202; or visit www.swatalitterbug.com.

Letters to the Troops - All

Receiving letters is a great way to boost the spirits of service men and women. Your troop can bring a little bit of home to service men and women stationed away from home by writing letters. Troops may send letters via an adult troop leader without the girls' addresses included. The service men and women may even write back. Current military names and addresses can be found at www.anysoldier.com. When local Girl Scout troops have families overseas, this information is passed along in the Leader Update.

Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Central and Western North Carolina - All

Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Founded in 1980 when a group of caring volunteers helped a young boy fulfill his dream of becoming a police officer, the Foundation is now the largest wish-granting charity in the world, with 65 chapters in the United States and its territories. The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants a wish every 40 minutes and has granted more than 178,000 wishes in the United States since inception. The central and western North Carolina chapter has granted over 2,400 wishes since its inception in 1985 and has never turned down a wish for an eligible child. For more information, please visit www.ncwish.org. Ways that troops can help the Make-A-Wish Foundation:

-Greeting Cards - Have your troop members create generic greeting cards to be given to wish children when they discover that they will be receiving their heartfelt wish. For instance, a card may read "Have Fun on Your Trip" or "Troop #__ is thinking of you."

-Wish Enhancement Parties - Often wish granters try to throw a send off party for those children who are going on travel wishes or do a party to surprise a child who is about to receive a wish. Your group can help throw a party for a specific child. If you are interested in throwing a send off party, the Make-A-Wish office will provide you with a wish child and the necessary information.

CONTACT: Lisa Moseley– 704-339-0334 ext. 226 or lmoseley@ncwish.org

Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation - All

Opportunities for youth to work in our parks, on our greenways, and during special events. Everything from trash pick-up to Easter egg hunts! Give back to your community by joining us for a day of fun! Volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

CONTACT: Lori Saylor at Lori.Saylor@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov or 704-336-5478.

Mint Hill Historical Society & Carl J. McEwen Historic Village - All

A variety of community service options are available for Girl Scout troops.

CONTACT: Sue McDonald at 704-573-0726 or historical@bellsouth.net; Visit the website at www.minthillhistory.com for further information.

Operation Christmas Child - All

Give the gift of fun and love in a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child.

WHEN: November 16-23, 2009

WHERE: Shoebox gifts can be delivered to the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center at 7100 Forest Point Blvd in Charlotte.

CONTACT: 704-583-1463 / 800-353-5949 or www.samaritanspurse.org

What to do:

1. Fill an empty shoebox or plastic shoebox-size container with a snap-on lid. If you wrap the shoebox, wrap the top and bottom separately. If using a plastic container, decorate the top only.
2. Decide if your box is for a girl or a boy and his or her age category: 2-4 yrs., 5-9 yrs., or 10-14 yrs. Attach the appropriate label on the far side of the lid.
3. Fill your shoebox with a variety of gifts. You may want to include a note or a picture for your child.
4. If possible, please include \$7 or more in an envelope and put it inside your shoebox to help cover shipping and other costs. If packing more than one box, you can make a combined donation in a single envelope. Checks are recommended rather than cash. Troops are not required to enclose this.
5. Place a rubber band around your box and lid.
6. Deliver shoeboxes to processing center.

Suggestion list:

Include one "something to love" (small stuffed animals are great), candy that will not melt and is double bagged, toys, school and art supplies, hygiene items and/or clothing. Please do not include the following: war-related items, all food items, liquids, breakable items, medicines, used or worn items, glue.

Pick Produce with a Purpose! - All

Gleaning is the practice of gathering crops that would otherwise be left in the fields to rot or be plowed under after harvest. Because the food is unmarketable, but edible, some growers allow crews of gleaners to pick what is left after harvest to donate to those in need. The Gleaning Network coordinates volunteers, growers and distribution agencies to salvage this food - everything from strawberries to sweet potatoes to collard greens. Anyone can glean! Hungry Americans are usually eating the food within 48 hours of gleaning. Opportunities to volunteer at farms in north and south Charlotte and surrounding areas run on weekends and during the week. There is also a need for volunteers to write notes or make phone calls instead of getting out in the fields. To learn more, visit www.endhunger.org.

CONTACT: 1-866-453-2662

Salvation Army Helping Hands - B, J, C, S, A

Collect items year round for the Adult Rehabilitation Center of the Salvation Army. Troops, families, and/or service units can collect items, and then coordinate directly with the Salvation Army to drop them off. Pick-ups are only available for large amounts of collected goods (example: service units or sponsorships that coordinate a large collection). When calling the Salvation Army, you will be asked your zip code so they can let you know when trucks will be in your area. Drop-off locations are open from 8 am - 4:30 pm. Patches are available FREE at Promise Provisions Girl Scout Store after you have donated your items.

Drop Off Areas:

-Cabarrus County: 2901 Cloverleaf Parkway, 704-788-2055

-York County: 1120 Cherry Rd., 803-328-8750

-Mecklenburg County: 1023 Central Ave., 704-332-1171

-Monroe: 417 E. Franklin St., 704-292-1379

-Matthews: 11328 E. Independence Blvd., 704-814-7031

CONTACT: 704-332-1171 or 800-528-0224 for more information or to coordinate item drop-off or pick-up

Scouting for Food - Loaves and Fishes - All

Scouting for food is a great way for your troop to help Loaves and Fishes feed hungry people. Hold a food drive within your troop, in your neighborhood, within your congregation or school. Participate anytime of year or during the county-wide Scouting for Food Drive held in early February. Loaves and Fishes provides a week's worth of nutritious groceries free of charge to hungry people. Visit www.loavesandfishes.org to learn more about how to conduct a food drive. This is a great Girl Scout community service project and provides quality food and grocery items to help your neighbors in need.

WHEN: Early February or anytime

CONTACT: Valerie Crocket at 704-523-4333

Seasons of Service - All

More than 20 million people volunteer each year to be part of the Seasons of Service - a year-round action plan to illustrate how a single day of service can grow into an ongoing habit of helping communities. There are many opportunities, sponsored and promoted by the Points of Light Foundation, for people to volunteer for service projects and activities. Each day of service is sponsored by a national organization and focuses on a theme that targets a specific group. Building each day of service into your program calendar can promote volunteerism in your community and provide opportunities for project-oriented problem solving, planning, teaching, researching, networking, and increasing community awareness. For more information, visit www.pointsoflight.org.

-Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: January 18, 2010 (www.mlkday.org)

-National Volunteer Week: April 18-24, 2010 (www.pointsoflight.org/nvw)

-National & Global Youth Service Day: April 23-25, 2010 (<http://www.ysa.org/nysd>)

-Join Hands Day: May 1, 2010 (1st Saturday in May - <http://joinhandsday.org/>)

-National Neighborhood Day: September 19, 2010 (3rd Sunday in September - <http://www.neighborhoodday.org/>)

-MyGoodDeed & 9/11 National Day of Service: September 11, 2010 (<http://911dayofservice.org/>)

-Kids Care Week: October 17-23, 2010 (<http://www.kidscare.org/>)

-Make A Difference Day: October 23, 2010 (www.makeadifferenceday.com)

-National Family Volunteer Day: November 20, 2010 (www.pointsoflight.org/familymatters)

Spread the Bread Marathon - All

This May, you won't need sneakers - just a lot of heart, an oven and a favorite bread recipe. Since 2001, Spread the Bread has taught millions to "bake a difference" by baking any kind of bread and then tying it with a note of hope, inspiration or gratitude, and offering it to honor a hero or support someone in need. Pay tribute to police, firefighters, veterans and soldiers or remember those in need: the elderly, sick, hungry, homeless and tired. Individuals or groups can organize bread drives or just spread bread to someone they know who has served our country in honor of Memorial Day. After you have "baked a difference," send an email to info@spreadthebread.org so they can tally the loaves of bread spread.

CONTACT: Visit the website at www.spreadthebread.org for details and helpful hints.

Uptown Shelter - J, C, S, A

Conduct a clothing and/or toiletries drive for Uptown Shelter. Items that are always needed include deodorant, shampoo, razors, towels, socks, men's clothing. *Note: No one under age 18 is allowed in the actual shelter.

CONTACT: Volunteer & Community Resources Coordinator at 704-334-3187 x111.

Urban Ministry Center - All

The UMC is a hospitality center for the community's homeless and poor. Basic needs are provided - including a soup kitchen open every day of the year, shower and laundry facilities, medical assistance, counseling, and a mailing address for more than 500 people. Troops may prepare sandwiches offsite and deliver them to the UMC on a prearranged day to be used in the soup kitchen. Other options: Bring drinks and serve them at lunch time (6-8max); eat lunch with the neighbors; take an educational tour and talk with an individual who is experiencing homelessness on a "Faces of Homelessness" panel. All age levels may prepare sandwiches or serve drinks. Eating lunch and a tour/panel is more appropriate for Juniors and above.

WHEN: M-F 8:30 am - 4:30 pm (lunch is served 11am-12:30pm), Sat-Sun 9:30 am - 12:30 pm (lunch only).

WHERE: 945 North College St, Charlotte; Any size group is welcome, but the Center can only accommodate 6-8 to serve drinks as it gets very crowded at lunch time.

CONTACT: Barbara Conrad or Jo Rizer at 704-347-0278 or volunteer@urbanministrycenter.org

Welcome Baskets Program - All

Welcome Baskets is a service opportunity through Community Link, an organization that helps break the cycle of poverty by enabling the working poor to obtain and sustain safe, decent, affordable housing; assists single men and women, families, the elderly and disabled customers who come from homeless shelters or transitional housing. The clients typically have few possessions and are on limited budgets, unable to purchase everything they need for their home. Please donate items in new or very good condition, and place all items in a bucket or laundry basket.

Listed below are suggestions of what customers may need:

-Bed & Bath basket: Bathroom rugs, shower curtains, mattress pads, sheets, pillows, cleaning brushes, soap, towels

-Children's basket: Board games, books, coloring books, crayons, bubbles, hand-held games, stuffed animals, pencils and paper, toothbrush and toothpaste

-Cleaning Supplies basket: bathroom tile cleaner, dish washing liquid, glass cleaner, mop/broom, paper towels, toilet paper, kitchen cleaner

-Household Tools basket: extension cords, hammer, hand wrench, nails of various sizes, pliers, plunger, screwdrivers, tape measure, yard stick

-Kitchen basket: baking pans, cooking utensils, dish towels, dishes, glasses, knives, pot holders, pots and pans, Pyrex dishes, silverware, small appliances, sponges
Laundry basket: bleach, softeners, hangers, iron, ironing board, laundry basket, light bulbs of various sizes and wattages, laundry detergent, step stools

CONTACT: 704-943-9490 or 704-943-9506 with any questions.

Conservation Calendar

Find more events at www.takepride.gov or www.volunteer.gov.

August 4 - Small Watershed Program enacted in 1954 to help protect watersheds

August 9 - Smokey the Bear's birthday (www.smokeybear.com)

August 14 - Appalachian Trail established in 1937 (www.nps.gov/appa)

August 25 - National Park Founder's Day - National Park Service created in 1916 by an act signed by President Woodrow Wilson.

September 3 - Congress enacted Wilderness Act of 1964

September 18 - World Water Monitoring Day (www.worldwatermonitoringday.org)

September 25, 2010 - International Coastal Cleanup (www.coastalcleanup.org)

September 25, 2010 - National Public Lands Day (www.npld.com) & National Estuary Day (www.estuaries.gov/neday.html)

October 11-17, 2010 - National Wildlife Refuge Week (www.fws.gov/refuges)

October 18 - Clean Water Act enacted by Congress in 1972

October 23, 2010 - Make a Difference Day (www.usaweekend.com/diffday/index.html)

November 18 - Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act enacted in 1977 to protect and enhance the nation's natural resources for sustained use.

December 23 - 1985 Farm Bill passed the first to include a conservation title and require farmers to follow conservation measures to be eligible for USDA benefits.

January 1 - National Environmental Policy Act enacted in 1970, requiring federal agencies to assess the impact of actions on the environment.

February 2, 2011 - World Wetlands Day (www.ramsar.org/wwd/www_index.htm)

February 21 - Washington Monument established in 1885 (www.nps.gov/wamo/home.htm)

March 1 - Yellowstone National Park, the first national park, established in 1872 by act of Congress and signed by President Ulysses S. Grant (www.nps.gov/yell/index.htm)

March 14 - National Wildlife Refuge System created in 1903 (www.fws.gov/refuges)

April - National Garden Month (www.nationalgardenmonth.org)

April 10-16, 2011 - National Volunteer Week (www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw)

April 22, 2011 - Earth Day (www.earthday.gov and www.earthday.org)

April 15-17, 2011 - National and Global Youth Service Day (www.ysa.org/nysd)

April 29 - Arbor Day (www.arborday.org)

May - American Wetlands Month (www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/awm)

May 2-8, 2011 Drinking Water Week (www.awwa.org/advocacy/dww)

May 7, 2011- Join Hands Day (www.joinhandsday.org)

May 28 - Sierra Club founded in 1892 (www.sierraclub.org)

June - Great Outdoors Month (www.greatoutdoorsmonth.org)

June 4, 2011 - National Trails Day (www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd)

Toolbox for the Great Outdoors - www.tools4outdoors.us: This excellent online resource is useful for Girl Scout volunteers who are interested in education, protection and recreation on our public lands. It provides resources that help build and sustain Linking Girls to the Land partnerships and projects.