

Builders Club

Service projects ideas

Here are some ideas to get your club serving. Take a look at the international service partners and then spend some time reviewing all the club level service ideas. Remember to assess your community needs and member interests before selecting your next project. All projects need good planning, enthusiasm, and club support.

Global service

To add muscle to the community services it provides, Builders Club establishes partnerships with nonprofits also serving the needs of the children. Two such organizations are UNICEF and the March of Dimes. Though there is a specific focus on these organizations at different times of the year, Builders Club members are encouraged to support them by raising money and performing service throughout the school year

UNICEF service partner

www.unicefusa.org/keyclub

Builders Club has joined Key Club in its pledge to raise \$1.5 million over the next two years to fund health and education programs for children in Uruguay. Today, 55 to 60 percent of the population of Uruguay lives in poverty. Related to the rise in poverty, there is also a sharp increase in school drop-out numbers and registered cases of neglect and abuse, leading to more street children and children who need UNICEF. The funds raised will allow UNICEF to help kids get back in school and stay in school, empower families to help take care of their children, and ensure access to health care. The impact of this program will help children get an education and develop a trade. It also gives them access to health care.

March of Dimes service partner

www.marchofdimesyouth.com

Young people are making a big difference nationwide. Since 1938, the March of Dimes and our youth volunteers have been dedicated to healthy babies. Many infant health problems have been solved. But with more than half a million babies each year born too soon or sick, we know there's more to be done. That's why Builders Club participates in March for Babies and supports the March of Dimes.

Local service

Adopt-a-beach/highway

Locate a beach or highway that has been abandoned or is not kept up very well. Take monthly trips to keep it clean and beautiful.

Adopt-a-grandparent

Locate a nursing home in your community and pair "grandparents" with Builders Club members. Make monthly visits to the elderly friends.

Anti-smoking campaign

Present an anti-smoking campaign in cooperation with your local cancer society chapter. It provides literature and speakers while you provide the organization!

Anti-vandalism campaign

Advertise your campaign throughout the city. Make signs decrying the destruction of the property and post them in businesses. Ask restaurants for permission to advertise with table tents. Clean up the vandalism around the city.

Appreciation day

Parents, faculty and staff should be thanked for their support. Your Builders Club could conduct an end-of-the-year buffet luncheon. Decorate the staff's lounge with balloons and crepe paper. Arrange to have several students dress as mimes and "aid" guests in getting through the line.

Appreciating teachers

For each holiday, find new ways to show teachers they are appreciated. On Thanksgiving Day, give candy; for Christmas, give ornaments; and at the end of the school year, treat the teachers to an ice cream social. Give teachers birthday cards on their birthdays too.

Around the world in a day

Encourage participation of all school clubs. Set up booths featuring different countries. Each booth sports that country's flag and food. The clubs also provide students with information about their activities. Have dancers represent various cultures to keep the hour-long lunch-time activity festive.

Assisting shut-ins

Do yard work or other small chores for the elderly who are confined to their homes. Offer to clip trees, pull weeds, care for plants, rake leaves, and do other tasks. This can brighten someone's day by letting them know you care.

Athletic events

Work as announcers for athletic events, work on the scoreboard, take tickets at the gate, and generally help your school's athletic department to make sports programs run more smoothly. This includes acting as coaches and referees of intramural teams, equipment managers and team managers. Contact coaches to see how your club can help. Similarly, work as minor officials for inter-school games or meets.

Athletic skill not needed

Organize a "Wacky Olympics" for the entire school or just the club. Include events such as flipper race, spoon thread, diaper race, ball squeeze, obstacle course, tennis racket race, shoe search, hula-hoop and other crazy games. Have faculty and students judge each event. Conclude the festivities with an awards ceremony.

Awareness week

Sponsor daily seminars concerning social and health-related topics. Topics include drug and alcohol abuse, suicide and depression.

Bingo

Once a month, go to a local nursing home and help the residents play bingo.

Blood drives

Offer to help the Red Cross during a blood donors clinic at local churches, libraries and municipal buildings. Builders Club members can set up chairs, beds and partitions, and assist with any other needs of the blood bank. This is especially helpful in the winter months when emergencies requiring blood supplies are more common.

Canned food drive

A food drive begins with committee members talking to homerooms and sending notes home. The two-week campaign could begin immediately after Thanksgiving Day. Builders Club members collect cans in their homerooms each morning and put them in the hall. The collection crew uses a library cart to pick up and deliver the cans to the "collection" center. Tally boards are updated each morning. At the end of the campaign, the boxed goods are loaded on a truck and taken to the community collection center. Videotape this project and interview the students who make the largest donations. Don't forget to contact the news media!

Celebrate your club's birthday

A good promotional event, host a birthday party for your club to honor its many years of service. Involve past club members, faculty and administrators, as well as the entire student body.

Christmas tree decoration

Offer to decorate your city's Christmas tree. The city will supply the decorations; you only have to supply the volunteers.

Cleanup and fix-up campaign

As part of a "cleanup and fix-up" campaign, paint some of the older and larger houses in a rundown area of the city. Set an example for other citizens to follow.

Cleanup campaign

Your Builders Club could invite all clubs and organizations to participate in a citywide cleanup campaign. The city is divided into sections for each club. Solicit food donations from area pizza restaurants to feed the volunteers.

Clean the statues

Offer to help the fire fighters – or whoever is in charge of taking care of your city's monuments – to clean them up.

Clothing drive

Solicit donations and place donation bins around town so people can donate their used clothing. Once clothing is collected, take it to a local church group or to another community-service group or shelter.

Clowning around

Arrange to make, buy, or rent some clown suits and nominate club members to be clowns. Take the whole Builders Club to a hospital with balloons for sick children.

Decorate nursing home

Decorate a nursing home for the holidays. After you finish, entertain the residents by singing or playing games.

Decorate pumpkins

Decorate pumpkins for Halloween and distribute them to nursing homes.

Decorate teachers' doors

For the Christmas holiday, "wrap" teachers' doors like Christmas presents.

Earth Day sponsor

Host an Earth Day to help students learn how to conserve energy and natural resources. The theme of the day is "The 3 R's: Recycle, Reuse and Reduce." Activities could include a picnic, speakers from the water and electrical departments, can-smashing contests and a poster and essay contest. Students could plant trees and grass, and collect and separate trash.

Easter egg hunt

Have your members help to hide eggs and goodies, and then help little children find them. Contact local shelters or agencies to find a needy group.

Elementary field day

During the school year, invite elementary school students to a field day, but don't limit it just to track and field. Instead, conduct math contests, art shows, spelling bees, reading contests, etc. Your Builders Club can donate trophies for the winners. No money needs to be charged, just let the kids have fun!

Energy committee

Sponsor projects that include rain forest conservation efforts, recycling and an energy-awareness program.

Environmental awareness

Take part in public awareness activities, fund-raisers, school wide recycling, workshops and Earth Week events. Invite speakers to campus, sponsor school cleanup days, plant trees and conduct group nature walks.

Fire hydrant painting

Get permission from your city council to decorate hydrants. Sponsor a contest with prizes for the best fire hydrant.

Flags

Have Builders Club members hang your nations' flags throughout the school, making sure they are correctly hung.

Flowers

Bring flowers to a nursing home to brighten the atmosphere.

Food bank

Contact a food bank to make it aware of your Builders Club's available assistance. Providing service by stocking shelves, delivering food and soliciting donations would be beneficial.

Food basket distribution

Contact a low-income housing association and work out a schedule to distribute hand out food baskets to low-income families in your community.

Food drives

Post signs around the city to make sure you advertise well. Set up food cans in grocery stores and have Builders Club members go door-to-door asking for canned foods. Once food is collected, take it to a food bank, a homeless mission, or to the Salvation Army facility.

Free gift wrapping

Around the holiday season, set up a booth in a mall and wrap presents for free. Promote your club's name so patrons know who is providing the service.

Graffiti cleanup

Take your club into the school washrooms to clean up the various writings that have accumulated. Repaint the walls if necessary, and encourage the student body to refrain from that kind of vandalism.

Halloween insurance

Before Halloween, sell "cleanup insurance" to the residents of the community. Clubs should state that all damage would be cleaned up, but that repairs would not be paid by the club. There may be ordinances in some areas that prevent this project. You should obtain permission from the city beforehand.

Holiday basket competition

Conduct a "Christmas Basket Competition" within the school. Each school club, along with homerooms, can participate. Every entry should decorate a basket depicting a Yuletide theme; then, hold drives for food, clothing and toys to fill the basket. Judge the entries, and then send them to an orphanage or agency for distribution. Donate prizes to the winners of the competition.

Similarly, a drive can be initiated for Thanksgiving Day. Instead of having several entries, make arrangements with the school administration for a central place to collect materials. The piles of collected goods, for example, can be displayed in the main foyer of your school to show what a unified effort can produce.

Improve those relationships

Improve student/teacher relationships. Send students on a scavenger hunt to find teachers who fit descriptions such as: 1. Name the teacher whose favorite rock singer in the '60s was Elvis Presley. 2. Name the teacher whose first car was a Mercury Comet. 3. Name the teacher who was head cheerleader at her high school in Indiana, etc. Students can only find the answers by conversing with their teachers.

Immersion campaign

Feature one ethnic group (Native American, Hispanic American, or African American) each month at your high school. Organize a multicultural committee, and have members make posters for the lobby showcase and give daily announcements to educate students about the featured ethnic group.

Elementary assembly

In cooperation with the school board and public health officials, present an assembly to junior high students explaining the dangers of drugs, drinking, smoking and other bad habits.

Leadership week

Nominate students and faculty members who demonstrate leadership qualities. Nominations should be accompanied by a recommendation. Organize a committee of students, faculty and administrators to select those nominees who will be recognized. The selected leaders are announced in front of the student body and invited to attend a social.

Library cleanup

Help librarians keep the library clean. Set up a schedule for club members to fill on a rotating basis.

Library volunteer

Members can help the librarians, especially during inventory at the end of the year.

Locker repair

During the summer, empty lockers can be repaired and painted.

Mail reading

Read mail to the elderly. Contact nursing homes and retirement villages.

May Day

Make May Day baskets for sick children in the hospital.

Marquee

Put messages on the school marquee each week. Contact the school's administration to provide assistance in this service.

Operation clean sweep

Club members sweep, clean and pick up trash in the downtown area. Have Kiwanians supervise the event. Solicit gloves and trash bags. At the end of the day, all volunteers receive refreshments.

Orphanages

Visit an orphanage and entertain the youngsters with a Christmas party. Take them small gifts, play games for entertainment, show them a movie or a cartoon and serve refreshments.

Outdoor education

Work with the wildlife and game commission and the county soil conservation agency to build an outdoor education park. The project could include developing a walking/jogging trail, a bird study area, an amphitheater for outdoor classes, a soil erosion study area, a rock study area, a small pond for fish study, picnic area with gazebo, vegetable garden, tree orchard and a wildlife habitat study area. Club members organize work days for students who want to help build this park.

Paint the school

With your school administrator's approval, repaint the gymnasium walls during the summer

months. Ask the school board to supply the paint and Kiwanians to supply the brushes and volunteers.

Paint trash barrels

In line with a cleanup campaign, paint all the campus trash barrels in the school's colors and print the name of your school Builders Club on it.

Paper product drive

Collect paper products, such as tissues, paper towels and diapers, to aid a child crisis center. Homeroom competitions motivate students to participate in the project. Award-winning homerooms in each grade win a free movie and popcorn party.

Pat parents on the back

Present parents of any student who receives an award during the year with a flower and a pin that says, "I am the parent of a (school name) winner."

Players' family night

Invite all junior and senior varsity basketball players' families to a basketball game. They should be admitted free and be given nametags; provide corsages for the mothers; escort both parents onto the court at halftime to be introduced.

Project bootstrap

Offer assistance to younger elementary-level students with school problems—from arithmetic to discipline—for an hour a week.

Rake 'n run

To help senior citizens winterize their yards, work on a Saturday in late October, raking and bagging leaves. Bring your own rakes and shovels and let the club provide trash bags. Have senior citizens sign up for this service through their church, the city, or the school. Ask parents to serve as team leaders, driving students to their work sites and supervising them. At the end of the day, everyone regroups at the school for a pizza party.

Read to children

Set up a space in a shopping mall or library and read books to children. Contact the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) program for additional opportunities.

Reception for new students

Hold a reception for all new students. It will make them feel more at home in a new town.

Recognize responsibility

Have school staff members nominate up to ten students weekly who have demonstrated positive acts, such as helping an injured student on crutches; taking homework home to a student who is sick; volunteering time; improving attitude, conduct, attendance, or grades; providing leadership; or encouraging school spirit. A staff committee reviews all nominations and selects up to ten students to receive recognition. Each Monday, the winners are announced over the PA system.

Recycling

Set up collection sites around the school and in each room for paper and aluminum cans.

Collect paper weekly for re-use, then for recycling. Check with recyclers to find out what they will accept. Arrange to have the recyclables transported regularly.

Refinish desks

A little bit of elbow grease on the part of Builders Club members will soon refinish tables in study halls and school rooms and will make the members appreciate the fact that the tables are not scribbling boards.

Repaint basketball court

Arrange with the school administration to repaint the lines on the school's basketball court, and top it off by painting your school mascot in the center.

Respect for law campaign

Use the booklet "You and the Law" to launch a 30-minute panel discussion, allowing ten minutes afterward for questions. Invite your local police chief. At the end of the program, distribute the booklet to students.

Retired persons gathering

Host get-togethers for retired adults on Saturdays and on special occasions. Play checkers, cards, etc. with them and serve refreshments. Whenever possible, as a change, invite speakers to the gatherings.

Salvation Army

Several ideas can be carried out with the Salvation Army, including packing bags of candy and fruit and staffing the Christmas kettle.

School bleachers

Paint and stencil numbers for school bleachers. Finish off the stands, making sure you are well within the specifications set by the fire marshal. Consult your school's maintenance supervisor for guidance.

School supplies

Conduct a school supplies and pencil drive in the school. All types of supplies are desperately needed by students worldwide. When all collections have been made, you can contact a local agency for information about shipping the materials.

Secret teachers

Assign each member to a teacher. The Builders Club members can surprise "their" teacher with little gifts throughout the year.

Special Olympics

Work with persons with disabilities who are training and preparing for special events. Encourage disabled persons handicapped to participate in such activities. Have rewards for achieving their goals.

Spirit days

For each of the five Fridays before spring vacation, "Show Your Spirit Day" could be celebrated. These dress-up days are used to liven up the long stretch from winter to spring. Each

homeroom teacher counts the students who dress according to that day's theme. The winning homeroom in each grade celebrates with a pizza party.

Sponsor a nursing home party

Work with a nursing home to host a party. Contact a nursing home to see what date would be appropriate. Provide a theme, refreshments and entertainment.

Take pride in activities

Your Builders Club could sponsor a pride week to highlight student achievement and encourage participation. The week's activities could include an inter-school basketball game, a concert, a talent show and an open house for the community.

Talk to your teachers

To improve students' relationship with faculty members, send teachers a calendar each month that highlights special student activities. The calendar keeps teachers aware of what's going on. Doing it on a monthly basis keeps the information from becoming overwhelming.

Teacher of the month competition

Sponsor a "Teacher-of-the-Month" competition. During each month of the school year, cite outstanding teachers for special activities, particularly their participation in extracurricular events.

Time for caring and sharing

For your holiday community-service project, stage a variety show at a nursing home. Schedule a second performance at a school for youngsters with disabilities.

Trick-or-Treat for cans

Have your Builders Club members dress up in costumes, and instead of trick-or-treating for candy, have them ask for donations or canned goods. Deliver the "treats" to a food pantry or homeless shelter.

Trophy case

Buy or build a trophy case for the school.

Tutoring

Tutor youngsters from area elementary schools. Contact churches to see if they know of youngsters in need of tutoring. Builders Club members can help the students develop reading skills through after-school practice in the church.

Valentines for vets

Get several members together and make valentines cards for war veterans.

Welcome sign

Often, a visitor's first impression of a town is its welcome sign. Students can design signs for each entrance to their towns and have them made by the vocational agriculture or shop classes.