

Family Volunteer Day

Service-Learning Lesson Plan

As part of OneOC's five days of service, Family Volunteer Day is a national service day, designed to demonstrate the power of families volunteering together and an opportunity to introduce community service. Celebrated annually the week before Thanksgiving, this Day "kicks off" the holiday season of service. Throughout the holiday season, OneOC encourages families to reach out to help others, especially in regards to relieving hunger in Orange County.

Check out the Third through Sixth Grade lesson plan for teachers that addresses hunger in our community. Families can take part in a Family Volunteer Day project focused on hunger and can make a difference in the community, one life at a time.

[Third through Sixth Grade lesson plan for Family Volunteer Day](#)

[Family activity for Family Volunteer Day](#)

Why Family Volunteering is Important

Family volunteering encourages the members of a family to volunteer as a unit. It can be done by the whole family together, by one parent and one child or teen, or with extended family such as grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. The combination of ages and generations in a family has everything needed to make a meaningful impact in a community.

Research suggests that engaging parents and their children in service together has important positive outcomes for everyone involved. It benefits:

Children and youth by cultivating positive values, such as caring and empathy, and by developing a commitment to service both now and in the future.

Parents by giving them more quality time with their children and all the other benefits of volunteering including increased interpersonal skills and improved health.

Families by increasing their sense of cohesion, well-being, and connections to the broader community.

Sponsoring organizations and civic life by attracting more volunteers, increasing volunteer commitments, and bringing new energy to traditional volunteer opportunities.

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Service-Learning Additional Resources

- Youtube:
 - [National Family Volunteer Day](#)
 - [Family Volunteering: What's in it for Families?](#)
 - [President Barack Obama on Volunteering](#)

Relevant Books:

- [The Busy Family's Guide to Volunteering: Do Good, Have Fun, Make a Difference as a Family!](#)
- [An Egg and a Cigarette](#)
- [Family Serve: Volunteer Opportunities for Families](#)
- [Cengage Advantage Books: Families, Schools, and Communities: Together for Young Children, 5th Edition](#)
- [Learning through Serving: A Student Guidebook for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Across Academic Disciplines and Cultural Communities](#)
- [Doing Good Together: 101 Easy, Meaningful Service Projects for Families, Schools, and Communities](#)
- [Developing Family and Community Involvement Skills through Case Studies and Field Experiences](#)
- [Leadership for Family and Community Involvement \(The Soul of Educational Leadership Series\)](#)

PDF Resources

- [A Family Guide to Volunteering](#)
- [Volunteer Day and Holiday Service Projects](#)
- [Family Volunteer Guidebook](#)
- [A Project Managers' Resource Guide](#)

Additional Resources

- [GenerationOn](#)
- [Points of Light](#)
- [HandsOn Network](#)