

Overview

Call to Service

PTA[®] members have a strong history of volunteer leadership. As the nation's largest volunteer child advocacy organization, PTA has had a significant impact on improving the education and well-being of America's children for more than 113 years.

Now, PTA members have the opportunity to continue to lead the nation in volunteering this summer and year-round, beginning with President Obama's **United We Serve initiative this summer that will encourage all Americans to volunteer.**

Every PTA member is asked to step up and become a service leader in their community by identifying unmet needs in schools, developing their own service projects, and recruiting new PTA and community members who are interested in those same issues.

PTA's leadership and involvement in answering the President's United We Serve initiative and beyond will further PTA's commitment to serving all children with one voice.

Leading the Charge

PTA members are encouraged to organize or volunteer with service projects that:

- ✦ Support **education**, specifically focused on **literacy, book distribution and library card registration.**
- ✦ Improve the **health** of children and youth through **back to school health drives.**
- ✦ Serve **military families.**

How to Get Involved

Plan Your Own Service Project:

PTA has created a new **Call to Service Toolkit** (available at www.pta.org/calltoservice) The Toolkit gives PTA members four easy steps to plan a successful service project:

- 1 – Prepare
- 2 – Take Action
- 3 – Reflect and Evaluate
- 4 – Celebrate.

In addition, project ideas, tips for effective service projects, and a number of examples from successful PTA projects are also included in the Toolkit.

Find an Existing Project in Your Community to Volunteer With:

- ✦ www.serve.gov– White House and Corporation for National and Community Service
- ✦ www.volunteermatch.org/– VolunteerMatch
- ✦ www.1-800-volunteer.org/– 1-800-Volunteer
- ✦ www.pointsoflight.org/– Points of Light Institute

"Today, while families contend with a struggling economy, and our hometowns fight to provide first-rate education for our children, this is precisely the time when a community needs its members to unite and work for the benefit of all."

Byron V. Garrett
CEO

Project Ideas

PTA service projects can come in all shapes and sizes. Some could take place at a local school or neighborhood, while others could be citywide or statewide. Some are designed as summer-long projects, while others will continue long into the future. Here are some ideas:

Education

- ★ Collect and distribute books to children
- ★ Register community members for library cards (youth and adults)
- ★ Read to children

Health

- ★ Organize back-to-school community health drives
- ★ Plant community gardens
- ★ Work with senior centers and nursing homes to promote exercise

Supporting Military Families

- ★ Provide “nights off” for parents whose spouses are overseas
- ★ Create active “neighboring” opportunities for military families to integrate with their local communities

Share Your Success

PTA members stand poised to make a significant difference to improve education, child health, and supports to military families by answering this call to service. Members are encouraged to share stories of their projects and the impact that was made at www.pta.org/calltoservice. These stories and PTA’s collective impact on the nation will be shared with President and Mrs. Obama in the coming months.

Contact

National PTA
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Need a Place to Start?

Visit www.pta.org/calltoservice