

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COMMUNITY SERVICE AND TAKE ACTION?

Community Service projects make the world a better place right now. Whether your girls engage in a short-term community service project, like collecting toys for kids who live in shelters, or a long-term or recurring project, like weekly volunteer shifts at a soup kitchen, their work fills an immediate need in the community.

Take Action projects—also called service learning—take community service to the next level. Though the girls still identify areas in which they'd like to help their communities, a Take Action project addresses the root cause of an issue and creates a solution to the problem. These projects are also defined by their sustainability.

As girls plan their project, they will determine whether it will be a Community Service project or a Take Action project. Both are needed and very important. This council-wide Girl Scout Weekend of Service is something that our sisterhood of Girl Scouts can work on together to show how we give back to make the world a better place.

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

Girl Scouts Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont Weekend of Service is coming up in April...

- ◆ Is there a way that as a troop/service unit we can give back to our first responders?
- ◆ Which first responders do you think need the most help from us?
- ◆ In what ways could we serve those first responders?
- ◆ What kind of needs could they have that we haven't thought of?
- ◆ How much time/money could we as a troop/service unit put toward this project?
- ◆ Who do we need to reach out to in order to be able to organize this service project?
- ◆ How will this help these first responders in their day-to-day work?

HOW TO PROMOTE YOUR PROJECT?

- ◆ Invite community leaders, religious organizations, friends and family.
- ◆ Send a press release describing your planned event inviting local media to attend.
- ◆ Take pictures! Action shots and girls in uniform are great. Get in close!
- ◆ Send pictures and press releases to local media after the event.
- ◆ Share photos with gsstories@girlscoutsp2p.org and on social media using [#DoingAGoodTurnGSCP2P2019](https://www.instagram.com/DoingAGoodTurnGSCP2P2019).
- ◆ Tag the council as well as other organizations that benefitted or volunteered to get more exposure on social media.



Participate in the Girl Scouts Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont "Do A Good Turn" community service weekend held annually in the spring of each year!

Starting this year, we are promoting a yearly optional theme.

2019 WEEKEND OF SERVICE

April 12-14, 2019

Optional Theme - First Responders



Reach out to the first responders in your community. Discover who they are, connect with them and give back. This is the perfect opportunity for an individual Girl Scout or troop to demonstrate service to their community, working with a variety of organizations and local resources.

Girl Scouts of all ages are encouraged to participate and document their service hours using our Do A Good Turn Weekend of Service online log at

[tinyurl.com/yymf6ft9](https://www.tinyurl.com/yymf6ft9).

We will accept hours for all service projects conducted during the month of April.



MID FEBRUARY

Begin the conversation with your Girl Scout troop. (See conversation starters on the last page.)

- ◆ Identify local first responders and select one.
 - ◆ Fire Department (volunteer or staff)
 - ◆ Ambulance Services (EMS, EMT, paramedic)
 - ◆ Rescue Squad
 - ◆ Police/Sheriff Department
 - ◆ Park Rangers/Game Wardens
 - ◆ National Guard
 - ◆ Social Services
- ◆ Girls decide and also come up with a Plan B.



AFTER EVENT

- ◆ Share pictures, videos, testimonials with our Girl Scout council, social media, press, etc.
- ◆ Reflect with Girl Scouts.
- ◆ Celebrate your success.
- ◆ Show appreciation and thank the first responders, participants, parents, donors and volunteers.

EARLY MARCH

Contact and meet local first responders.

- ◆ Discuss the needs of the organization and ideas on how Girl Scouts can be engaged.
- ◆ Use suggested ideas on last page.
- ◆ Keep in mind the policy and procedures of Girl Scouts Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont.
- ◆ Schedule the Do A Good Turn service project date, time and location. (Preferably April 12-14.)



DAY OF EVENT

- ◆ Arrive early to setup.
- ◆ Have a check-in station.
- ◆ Event Outline
 - ◆ Opening & Closing
 - ◆ Snack Time/Break
 - ◆ Opportunity for organization to share their mission/purpose
- ◆ Ensure that someone is capturing the moments (pictures, videos, testimonials) and sharing them.
 - ◆ We love seeing what our girls are up to! Share with us on social media or e-mail gsstories@girlscoutsp2p.org.

MID MARCH

Ensure girls are part of the planning process! This should be a Girl-Led Experience.

- ◆ Pre-Promotion
 - ◆ Use council provided flyer template, press release and social media resources. Request resources at info@girlscoutsp2p.org.
 - ◆ Share any wish lists, expectations or other specifics with possible participants.
- ◆ Ask volunteers/participants to sign up in advance.
- ◆ Who can help you do it?
- ◆ How many people do you want to help?
- ◆ What do you need and how do you get it?
- ◆ Do we need money or supplies?
 - ◆ Before asking for gifts in-kind from businesses or planning money earning projects, review Money Earning policies and complete the Additional Money Earning application.
- ◆ Should we provide snacks and water to participants at the event?
- ◆ Consider Integrating Girl Scout badges when possible.

WEEK PRIOR

Confirmations

- ◆ Follow up with the organization to ensure all details have been discussed.
- ◆ Share details with participants about check-in, parking, expectations/roles, Girl Scout attire, etc.
- ◆ Review Safety Activity Checkpoints.
- ◆ Review permission slips, adult/girl ratio, additional insurance, First Aid kit.