

A. 101+ IDEAS FOR MINISTRY

The opportunities to meet needs and share Jesus in your community are limited only by the creativity of your local church. When priming the pump of creativity in the church, consider these practical ways to Serve Local. Incredible ministry can take place when individuals, families, and groups within your church are given some practical ideas and then encouraged and given the freedom to be creative as they love their neighbors and serve their community well.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, we are suggesting that you limit team size to 12 members at the largest. The majority of these ideas can be accomplished with a team of 5-7 members. Some ideas may require multiple teams. Again, these are only suggestions.

Costs will also vary depending on the number of people served, supplies required, and items purchased such as gifts, medals/trophies, care package contents, and food. Comparing each idea to the others, the following cost estimate is provided following each idea: F – free, \$ – inexpensive, \$\$ – moderately expensive, \$\$\$ – most expensive.

As you serve, let's be intentional in sharing the

Gospel. The opportunities for gospel conversations are limitless!

FAMILY FRIENDLY COMMUNITY EVENTS

1. Family Movie (\$\$)

- Family friendly movie projected on wall of building or large screen
- license may be needed for large gathering
- Options:
 - Family Drive-In Movie – family remains in car, sound provided by FM transmitter
 - Outdoors Family Movie – families bring lawn chairs or blanket and sit on lawn, sound provided by speakers
- Snacks: popcorn/candy can be provided – packaged prior per family/car & presented as family registers
- Gospel can be presented at conclusion of movie
- Evening works best if outdoors

2. Family Scavenger Hunt (\$)

- Publicize event on social media & through member networks
- Develop registration page & format for providing clues
- Options:
 - Photo scavenger hunt: post pictures of objects in community perhaps with a clue to location – family takes group picture at

each location – returns to specific location at end of hunt to receive gift

- Object scavenger hunt: similar to photo scavenger hunt but instead of posting pictures of objects provide clues to objects located in community – family takes picture of object/records location of object on clue card – returns to specific location at end of hunt to receive gift



- Gift Ideas: movie packet for family (microwave popcorn, 2-liter drink, movie-size box of candy, \$5 or less family movie, tract/bible)

NEIGHBORHOOD/CITY CLEAN-UP & RENOVATION

In addition to providing beautification projects to individual neighbors, here are some ideas to show that your church loves your community!

3. Rid-Litter Day: Neighborhood (\$)

- Teams pick-up trash along the streets of a specific neighborhood
- Caution: Kindness in Progress signs

4. Park Renovation (\$\$\$)

- Replace basketball backboards, goals, nets

- Renovate park benches/shelters by replacing broken or weathered boards. A fresh coat of stain/paint adds a “wow” factor
- Clean/paint park restrooms

PRAYING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

5. Prayer Walking (F, \$)

- 2 Teams of 3 or 4 (at least one male per team) per street
- Maps are provided of streets assigned
- Prayer Walking Guide provided
- Options: Local school, city hall, courthouse or other government buildings can be included on the prayer journey
- Note: one team can cover 50 homes per hour

6. Prayer Driving (F)

- Team of 4 (maximum) same gender or 2 couples per vehicle
- Maps provided for designated prayer driving area
- Prayer Driving Guide provided
- Works best in rural areas or neighborhoods with no sidewalks

SERVING THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY

Consider creative ways to say “thank you” to your local medical community for how they have served and sacrificed during COVID-19.

7. Deliver care packages (snacks, drinks, etc.) to Medical/Dental staff (\$\$)

- Include hand-written scripture cards and thank you notes – notes from children are special
- Face masks and hand-sanitizers are often requested items

8. Deliver Care packages to Hospital/ER waiting rooms **(\$\$)**

- Include prayer cards
- Offer to pray with individuals
- Check with hospital chaplain or administration for permission

SERVING YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL

Local schools may have projects that have been put on hold due to increased costs & use of personnel related to COVID-19. Speak with local school superintendent or principal to discover needs and offer volunteers to help. The school may be able to provide some or all supplies needed. Below are some possible ideas for developing a partnership with your local school. Note: Providing these services may not have immediate opportunity for gospel presentations but will provide teachers/administrators who are members of your church the opportunity for conversations with their peers. You will also open the door for additional partnerships with the school that could have Kingdom impact.

- 9.. Renovate teachers' lounge: fresh paint, furniture **(\$\$\$)**
10. Paint playground equipment **(\$\$)**
11. Provide take-out lunch for teachers **(\$\$\$)**
 - Option:
 - Instead of lunch, serve a Pancake Breakfast
 - Provide gift card to local fast-food restaurant for each teacher with hand-written Thank You
 - Provide gift card for supplies (Walmart, Amazon, etc) for each teacher with hand-written Thank You
 - Arrange with Administration to place items in teachers' mailboxes

STUDENTS ON MISSION

ONE DAY: SERVE LOCAL

Students love to serve. Include them in ministries serving alongside adults or with their families, but also encourage them to develop their own ministries where they can serve with their peers.

Here are a few ideas:

12. Graffiti Paint-Over **(\$\$)**
 - Check with city officials and/or local businesses to discover unsightly/unwanted graffiti and offer a fresh coat of paint
13. Grocery Escort **(F)**
 - Teams station at local grocery store and offer to assist shoppers to their vehicle
 - Idea: If it's raining, offer an umbrella escort

BLESSING OUR INTERNATIONAL NEIGHBORS

Many communities across Arkansas are becoming increasingly diverse. Many have growing Hispanic and Asian populations, as well as families from over 130 distinct people groups as well. Some ideas for using your Serve Local event to impact ethnic people groups in your community include:

14. Purchase lunch for your Serve Local teams from an ethnic restaurant **(\$\$\$)**
15. Purchase giftcards from an/or for ethnic-owned businesses to include in giveaways for other ministry projects **(\$\$\$)**
16. Survey ethnic-owned businesses & homes for needs you can meet, such as trash pickup around businesses & apartment complexes **(F)**

For more ideas go to: absc.org/oneday.