

- What will be our youth and volunteer needs? How many units can we reasonably expect to take part?
- What equipment will we need? Can it be borrowed? If not, what must be rented? Bought? What will it cost?
- If we need cooperation from other organizations, what should we do to get it? Do we need formal contracts or agreements?
- How will we handle publicity and public relations? Can the council do it through normal channels or do we need a public relations subcommittee?
- What is the time scheduled for this project?
- What kind of record shall we keep? (A record should be kept for every service project. It should include reports of how the committee organized the project, what funds were spent, and the committee's evaluation of the completed project. Copies should go to every unit that participated and be kept in the council files for the use of committees planning future service projects.)

SUGGESTIONS FOR PROJECTS

Prune Community Trees

Trees in every community suffer from severe weather conditions. Why not plan a day of tree pruning in early spring to reduce the danger from broken limbs and make lawns and parks more attractive and safe? Obviously, the advice of a tree expert is necessary, so secure the aid of an adult consultant.

Power saws and other necessary machinery can probably be borrowed for the day. If power saws will be used, it is important to wear hard hats. You will need an adult in charge who has the authority to prune and who can provide the supervision necessary to minimize danger.

Community Cleanup Day

Assist in a community-wide "cleanup, paint-up, fix-up" day. This is especially appropriate for city units. Before the big day, advise homeowners through the newspaper that Scouts will be available at a modest fee to rake lawns, spade gardens, install screens, wash windows, do simple painting

jobs, etc. On cleanup day, divide the community into geographical areas, with one or more troops assigned to each area.

Ask homeowners to call a central headquarters where assignments are made. A small hourly fee is charged (this is waived if the homeowner is unable to pay), and the money goes into a special fund for a future service project. In this way, one Good Turn finances another.

This project may need general safety supervision and may require additional insurance coverage as security against serious accidents.

Cemetery Fix-Up

In many areas, small cemeteries suffer from neglect. Try to identify unmarked graves, clean and straighten grave markers, cut the grass, remove weeds, and plant flowers and shrubs. Troops should be assigned for periodic maintenance so that cemeteries do not suffer from neglect again.

Organize Snow-Shoveling Brigades

Where the snow flies heavily and often, councils and districts can provide a much needed service by organizing units to keep fire hydrants cleared during the winter. Clearing hydrants of snow saves valuable time for firefighters responding to alarms, and can be responsible for saving lives.

Each unit is assigned one or two hydrants, and whenever it snows, a Scout promptly reports to clear the hydrants. Assignments might also be made to clear snow from the homes of senior citizens and shut-ins.

Clothing Drive

Often after a fire, flood, or other disaster, many people will be without sufficient clothing. Generally, local authorities coordinate a campaign to collect used clothing in good condition for distribution to the victims. Councils and districts should cooperate with local authorities and not attempt to set up an independent project.

Become an Emergency Service Unit

The BSA has a long and proud tradition of service during and after natural disasters. Scouts and Explorers have served well as messengers in