



## Son Servants "At Home" Service Project Ideas.

This is a strange time to be serving in the church, but yet, we are still called as the body of Christ to love our neighbor as ourselves. This is just a sampling of ideas for you and your group to use as a means to show your community the love of Christ. Also, we wanted to note- many of these ideas can easily apply to EVERYONE at this time- some families are still self-quarantining, many people are in the more vulnerable population, there are single parents, working from home parents, some people may have or be recovering from COVID19. The list goes on. There is a widespread loneliness and need for hope- so we encourage you to be a neighbor to all! Love those around you, and get creative.

1. In groups of two or three, provide services for the elderly, widows, widowers, disabled in your church. Yard work, outside window cleaning, car washing, flower planting, sidewalk cleaning, small painting jobs etc.
2. Host a canned food drive for food kitchens, Salvation Army, local welfare agency. Have folks leave canned goods at mail box on a specific day have parents drive students around to collect items. (Gets parents involved!)
3. Start a pen pal program with shut-ins at your church or a local retirement or assisted living facility, widows, widowers, elderly, or individuals sheltered at home.
4. Make treats/baked goods and deliver them to a local hospital or clinic, fire station, or post office. Any location where folks have continued to serve during the pandemic.
5. Send small groups to a local food bank to pack food boxes.
6. Collect or purchase travel size toiletries and make personal hygiene packs (include hand sanitizer, toothbrush and paste, soap, lotions, hand wipes, lotion, shampoo, toilet paper) with an encouraging note in each pack, to give to homeless agencies to distribute.
7. Make small flower arrangements in mason jars with a bow to give to nursing home residents, people sick or recovering, or elderly in your church.
8. Provide food delivery service to porches for food bank/community kitchen/YMCA type of agencies. There is a huge need for school aged children getting meals and many organizations have the meals, but need the wheels! (this also gets parents involved)
9. Check with local child care facilities or school programs that are open this summer and might need additional supplies (crafts, snacks, school supplies, etc.) Gather and provide those supplies.
10. Have a cook off with students for best chili or soup or gumbo or pasta dish. Collect the entries, declare a winner then pack the soups in zip-lock bags and freeze to distribute to families or individuals in need.



11. Disaster relief work. Many areas still need cleanup from recent storms, hurricanes, tornadoes. Check with your local agencies and reach out to homeowners who could use assistance with yard cleanup, removal of debris, clearing out houses, etc.
12. Chalk art competition around the community with encouraging messages, jokes, scripture, any positive message. Make it a competition with teams of two or three.
13. Host a social distanced exercise class for kids and/or parents. Have the kids lead a class for parents.
14. Contact the local Mayor or councilperson and ask about specific needs in the community. Provide help where possible.
15. Write letters of encouragement to mission partners of the church. Educational and enlightening for the future leaders of the church. Almost every church has local or international mission agencies or partners that they support. Often these are not widely known throughout the church, especially in the younger age groups. Take time to learn about these missions, what they do what their goals are how long they have existed, what needs they might have. Formulate a plan for your youth group to meet some of the discovered needs for these agencies or individuals.
16. In groups of two or three make videos and share within the group, or do videos and share with other groups that you frequently do mission trips with. A form of digital pen pals. You could also make videos and send to your churches mission partners, or supported missionaries.
17. Study a book together, or watch a movie series as a group that has a neighbor or mission theme. In todays climate a book or movie about race relations might be the perfect path to go down. Who are our neighbors? Check resources listed with the talk. Have discussion and application sessions. Divide the group into small groups that take turns leading the sessions. Brain storm ways for the group to address some of the issues within the group, at school, or in the community.
18. If you have a smaller group connect with other churches ( your neighbors) and do a service project together following local directives on gatherings. After the project have a sports day/afternoon adapting the rules to include social distancing, and local restrictions. ie; six person kick ball teams, use semi inflated ball, only have two bases. Corn Hole tournament, three or four person badminton teams. Do the same with volley ball using a beach ball. Be creative. End the time with discussion on the service project, what they observed, what emotions they experienced, how helpful was it, etc.
19. Most mission trips have a "fun" day. This could also be a fund raiser. Have students get sponsors who pledge money for a specific project. Create small teams, two – four persons. Give each team a five-gallon plastic bucket with about ten items inside. Duct tape, sticks, straws tennis balls construction paper, small container of paint ( no brush) etc. ( whatever you want to include). On the bottom of the bucket have the name of a person, place or thing that the team



has to create using only the items in the bucket and of course the bucket. Give them some design time 10-15 minutes then a time limit to make their item. Use social distancing rules, six feet apart, only one person can work on the object at a time etc. Then have the groups make a video explaining their creations. Perhaps create a long distance competition with other groups or a comparison program with another group or groups who have also raised money for a specific project or a joint project.

Alternative approach; have one person on the team do the actual work, while the remainder of the team is in a separate location where they can't see the actual work. The hands-on person has to go back and forth between the project and the other group members where he describes the items and the goal and gets directions from the other group members. Great way to have a conversation about communication and team work. Both important items in life and on mission trips.

20. Most of these ideas can also be used as a fund raiser for the local or international missions. Students can get sponsors to support how many hours they work, how many days they work or how many bags of trash they pick up etc. Please remember Son Servants in your efforts. Your consideration of Son Servants is not required but would be greatly appreciated and helpful. You can give online at [ycmhome.org/give/](http://ycmhome.org/give/) OR text "YOUTH" to 91999