

The third line of the promise reminds us "To help people at all times," and what better time to do that, than during the holiday season?

Many people might be lonely around this time of year and need a little extra TLC. Community service is a pillar of Girl Scouts and the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Service to others will help the girls discover that they can act on behalf of others by taking action in their communities to make things better. It will help them to connect with people they might never have met otherwise. When they take action and pitch in they will see no matter how small they are, they can make a difference. Don't know what to do with your girls? Don't worry. There are many age appropriate community service projects out there.



Girls of all ages can do community service. However, you will want to make sure that they are age appropriate activities and the younger the girl, the shorter the activity the better. Sometimes it takes less than one hour to do your part, but aim for an hour per activity. It is much easier to accomplish an hour of activity rather than trying to do a whole day. Community service comes in many forms, and the need is ever-present. Girls can help with their church bulletin, clean someone's house that is unable to, help stuff the bus for United Ways or participate/host a toy drive for Toys for Tots, collect clothing to donate, collect canned goods, volunteer at an animal rescue/shelter, collect and donate books, collect unused makeup and cosmetics for a woman's shelter, read to or just visit the blind, or invite a military child to a Girl Scout meeting or activity so that mom can have a night off. They could make Thank You cards for doctors or nurses who are pulled from their families on holidays. A troop could adopt a Fire, Police or EMT station and feed them for the holidays. This is just the tip of the iceberg. There are so many ideas. Ask your girls what is important to them and what they would like to do for community service. They may know someone who could really use the help or have a cause that is close to their hearts. Below are some places to help get you started divided by region. You are not limited to these places alone. Be creative and please share over the next few weeks what you are doing.

Alexandria

Scouting for Food (food bank)
Adopt a Fire, Police or EMT station
Alexandria Zoo
Good Earth Project
VA Medical Center
Kent House

Lafayette

St. Joseph's Diner
Acadiana Humane Society
United Way
Faith House
Childrens Shelter of Acadiana
Affiliated Blind Association
Lafayette Consolidated
Government Parks and Recreation
Camelot in Broussard

Lake Charles

LaPaw –dog adoption club
Moss Regional Hospital
Lighting of Lake Charles
Abraham Tent (food bank)

Oak Park (food bank)
Veteran's Hospital in Jennings
The Women's Shelter
Soles (shoe collection)
Goodwill
Fort Polk

Monroe

Glenwood Medical Mall (Santa Stop)
Louisiana Baptist Children's Home
Northeast Louisiana and Rapides
Parish Scouting for Food
The Garden Club in Union Parish
The Well Spring

Shreveport

Veteran's Hospital (Overton Brooks)
Barksdale Air Force Base
Chimp Haven
Providence House
Shriner's Hospital
Shreveport Green
Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana
Gingerbread House