

girls ministries:

HEART OF COMPASSION



SERVE DAY GUIDE



THANK YOU!

Dear Leader,

Before we even begin, we want to thank you for your heart for leading girls in our "Heart of Compassion" initiative. We believe we are BETTER TOGETHER, and we are excited to see girls across the nation reach their communities.

We encourage you to allow this to be an opportunity for girls and their families to get involved. This guide is designed to be a resource for you to help girls make an impact in their communities, and to develop a heart of compassion. If each of us did something, imagine how different our world would be!

We truly are better together and know that our team at the national office is praying for you and cheering you on!

LET'S CHANGE THE WORLD TOGETHER!

-National Girls Ministries Team

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NATIONWIDE SERVE DAY 2024

September 14, 2024

This year's Nationwide Serve Day is on September 14, 2024, which is the very last day of National Girls Ministries Week. Although this is our preferred date, feel free to do it whenever you would like throughout the year, maybe even more than once! Please post your pictures and tag "National Girls Ministries" and use the hashtag #serveday24!

Throughout the week of National Girls Ministries Week, there will be a five-day "Heart of Compassion" devotional available on the YouVersion Bible App for both kids and teens to complete before participating in their local Serve Day.



NATIONAL GIRLS MINISTRIES WEEK

September 8-14, 2024

During National Girls Ministries Week, our goal is to create an opportunity for girls, both kids and teens, and leaders to come together in unity to show they are a part of a sisterhood under Christ!

This week is also an opportunity to strategize exciting involvement across the nation. The National Office team has provided some valued resources to help enhance NGM Week in addition to your local group activities. Alongside this Serve Day guide, we have YouVersion devotions and daily challenges on social media. We cannot wait to see your pictures and hear testimonies of how God is moving in your groups!



YouVersion

Heart of Compassion Devotions from 2023

For Kids



For Teens



STEPS FOR AN IMPACTFUL SERVE DAY

Step 1: Pray and ask God to lead and direct your conversations and to open the doors for your girls during Serve Day. Prayer is **key** and a great place to start!

Step 2: Write out what God is speaking to you about Serve Day.

Step 3: Make a list of organizations in your area that you can partner with. Great places to start are local food pantries, schools, Boys and Girls clubs, community gardens, and community centers. These places are always looking for ways to get people involved and make some of the best partners.

Step 4: Give them a call! Here is a sample question you can ask: "Hi, my name is (insert name), and I'm calling from (insert church). I help lead Girls Ministries in my local church, and we are wanting to get involved in our community and host a Serve Day on (insert day). I wanted to ask if you would be interested in having our group of girls of various ages and parents come serve your organization."

Step 5: Listen and take notes! Write down the contact person's name and ask about supplies you may need, etc. Make sure to thank them at the end for the incredible opportunity.

Step 6: Advertise and create an action plan to get girls and their families involved! Make sure to communicate what time, day, and place where they need to meet. Pass out permission slips if the girls will not have a parent with them.

Step 7: Hold a morning rally to bring everyone together and explain instructions for the day. Pray together and create excitement for the day's opportunities.

Step 8: Serve with the girls and have fun! Take pictures during the day and post them on social media. Don't forget to tag National Girls Ministries. We would LOVE to see it!

Step 9: After Serve Day, make sure to send out handwritten thank you cards to let everyone know you appreciated them being part of an impactful day! Don't forget to thank the team who allowed you to come serve.

PRE-SERVE DAY IDEAS

A **Serve Day Rally** is a fun way to bring everyone together before going out and serving. It is a great place to relay key information, build relationships and excitement, and pray together as a group. If your group is serving at multiple locations, a rally unites everyone together. If your group is smaller, accommodate these elements to fit your needs and group size.

Fun Elements:

- **Name tags** are a great way to help everyone get to know each other. You can hand these out at check in on the day of your event.
- Have **light snacks** available when people are arriving.
- If you are hosting multiple Serve Day projects, divide the group into **color teams** and hand out **bracelets** that match the team colors.
- Make sure everyone has a **water bottle** to bring with them on their project. (Extra tip: provide **sharpies** for them to label with their names.)
- Have **fun music** playing when people arrive.
- **Welcome** and thank everyone for being a part. **Explain** any rules that the organizations have set up and **encourage** everyone that they are there to serve and be a light in the community! (Unless your group is small, you will want to use a microphone to get everyone's attention and so that everyone can hear you.)
- Spend a few moments **praying together** before going out to you Serve Day location.
- Have the kids **shout out a fun cheer**. (Examples: "Go Team!" "Better Together!" The more fun you have with it, the more energy you will bring.)
- Make sure to snap a **group photo** before getting started.

SERVE DAY IDEAS

Connect with a Local Food Bank

How - Work with local community agencies to identify existing needs. If possible, have the girls help organize and distribute food.

Why - To help people in need. Isaiah 58:7 (NIV) says to "...share your food with the hungry."

Suggested Units

- Daisies: Giving, Helping, Loving, or Sharing
- Prims: Church, Community, Family, Helpers, or Kindness
- Stars: Citizenship, Family, Growing, In His Image, or Intro to Church
- Friends: Attitude Is Everything, Commitment to Christ, or Family Life
- Girls Only: Attitude, Family Relationships, Witnessing, or Women in Ministry

Provide Coats, Shoes, and/or Clothing for Children

How - Work through local shelters and schools. You can supply products, and they can administer and oversee distribution. You can purchase supplies through local vendors, explaining your plans for outreach. For funding or purchasing, you can partner with local businesses or community organizations.

Why - To address the needs of children attending school without proper attire.

Suggested Units

- Daisies: Giving, Helping, Loving, or Sharing
- Prims: Church, Community, Family, Helpers, or Kindness
- Stars: Citizenship, Family, Growing, In His Image, or Intro to Church
- Friends: Attitude Is Everything, Child Care, Commitment to Christ, Family Life, or Sanctity of Life
- Girls Only: Attitude, Family Relationships, or Women in Ministry

Coordinate a Food Drive

How - Work with local community agencies to identify existing needs. Purchase or collect groceries for distribution either through the church or a local food bank.

Why - To help people in need. Isaiah 58:7 (NIV) says "...share your food with the hungry."

Suggested Units

- Daisies: Giving, Helping, Loving, or Sharing
- Prims: Church, Community, Family, Helpers, or Kindness
- Stars: Citizenship, Family, In His Image, or Intro to Church
- Friends: Attitude Is Everything, Commitment to Christ, or Family Life
- Girls Only: Attitude, Family Relationships, or Women in Ministry

SERVE DAY IDEAS

Conduct a Suitcase Drive for Individuals Aging out of Foster Care

How - Work with foster care agencies to determine the greatest needs. Suitcases should be new or gently used.

Why - Foster youth have little to no support system upon reaching certain ages. Provide an opportunity for church people to become aware of this need through meeting a tangible need—suitcases. Foster youth usually have nothing more than a garbage bag to place their belongings in upon exit of the group home. This aligns with AG Foster Care Network Initiative.

Suggested Units

- Daisies: Giving, Helping, Loving, or Sharing
- Prims: Church, Community, Family, Helpers, or Kindness
- Stars: Citizenship, Family, Growing, In His Image, Intro to Church, Personal Evangelism, or US Missions
- Friends: Attitude Is Everything, Commitment to Christ, Family Life, Personal Evangelism, Sanctity of Life, or Self Esteem
- Girls Only: Attitude, Family Relationships, Witnessing, or Women in Ministry

Become a "Toys for Tots" Distributor in Your Community

How - Talk with a local Marine recruiter to determine your community's greatest needs.

Why - To connect families in need with like-minded people sharing the hope of Jesus.

Suggested Units

- Daisies: Giving, Helping, Loving, or Sharing
- Prims: Church, Community, Family, Growing, Helpers, Kindness, Missions
- Stars: Citizenship, Family, Growing, In His Image, Intro to Church, or US Missions
- Friends: Attitude Is Everything, Child Care, Commitment to Christ, Family Life, or Multiculturalism
- Girls Only: Attitude, Family Relationships, or Women in Ministry

Write/Draw Thank You Cards to Veterans

How - Reach out to your local Veterans Association (VA) to get connected with local VA hospitals and other resource centers about writing thank you cards to veterans.

Why - To provide appreciation and encouragement to a sometimes forgotten people group.

Suggested Units

- Daisies: Giving, Helping, Loving, or Sharing
- Prims: Church, Community, Family, Friendship, Helpers, or Kindness
- Stars: Citizenship, Family, Friendship, Growing, In His Image, Intro to Church, or Personal Evangelism
- Friends: Attitude Is Everything, Choices, Commitment to Christ, Family Life, Friends for Life, Multiculturalism, Personal Evangelism, or Sanctity of Life
- Girls Only: Attitude, Family Relationships, Friendship Factor, Truth, Witnessing, or Women in Ministry

SERVE DAY IDEAS

Partner with Schools to Provide School Supplies and Backpacks

How - Purchase or collect supplies from wholesale vendors or places with markdowns, if possible. Host a "Back to School Supply Drive." Contact local service organizations that focus on education, such as The Rotary Foundation and Kiwanis International.

Why - To encourage progress within an existing community hub of families, provide supplies for students, and increase credibility in the community through service.

Suggested Units

- Daisies: Giving, Helping, Loving, or Sharing
- Prims: Church, Community, Family, Friendship, Helpers, or Kindness
- Stars: Citizenship, Family, Growing, In His Image, or Intro to Church
- Friends: Attitude Is Everything, Commitment to Christ, Family Life, Multiculturalism, or Peer Pressure
- Girls Only: Attitude, Family Relationships, Standing Firm, Truth, or Women in Ministry

Provide Family Portraits for Neighborhood Families (Teen Girl Focused)

How - Connect with photographers in your church or have teen girls take the portraits on their phone. Connect with your school or neighborhood associations to join an event and provide free family portraits.

Why - Families in need do not necessarily budget for family portraits. This gives emerging photographers a chance to serve and provide families with an empowering photo of their loved ones.

Suggested Units

- Friends: Attitude Is Everything, Commitment to Christ, Family Life, Multiculturalism, Personal Evangelism, Sanctity of Life, or Self Esteem
- Girls Only: Attitude, Family Relationships, Witnessing, or Women in Ministry

Provide Childcare for Parents to Have a Date Night (Teen Girl Focused)

How - Announce it to the parents at your church and create an opportunity for your teen girls to provide childcare.

Why - To build credibility and relationships with the families in your church and provide kids with a night of fun.

Suggested Units

- Friends: Attitude Is Everything, Child Care, Commitment to Christ, Family Life, Friends for Life, Multiculturalism, Self-Discipline
- Girls Only: Attitude, Family Relationships, Friendship Factor, or Women in Ministry

SERVE DAY IDEAS

Assist a Senior Day

How - Bring rakes and trash bags. Clean their yards together! Have a celebration service in a local park or at your church after the cleanup.

Why - Older people are sometimes unable to take care of their property and can receive significant fines from the city. This illustrates the importance of the church going beyond its walls.

Suggested Units

- Daisies: Giving, Helping, Loving, or Sharing
- Prims: Church, Community, Family, Friendship, Helpers, or Kindness
- Stars: Citizenship, Family, Friendship, Growing, In His Image, Intro to Church, or Personal Evangelism
- Friends: Attitude Is Everything, Commitment to Christ, Family Life, Multiculturalism, Personal Evangelism, Sanctity of Life
- Girls Only: Attitude, Family Relationships, Friendship Factor, or Women in Ministry

Adopt a Local Group of First Responders (Police, Fire, and Paramedics)

How - Inquire with local police, fire, and ambulance departments to assess needs. Consider giving them a basket of snacks and thank you cards. Specifically focus on one group if resources and volunteers are limited.

Why - To serve people on the front lines of the community who have needs resulting from crisis situations. This could become a referral to the hurting people they serve.

Suggested Units

- Daisies: Giving, Helping, Loving, or Sharing
- Prims: Church, Community, Family, Helpers, or Kindness
- Stars: Citizenship, Family, Growing, In His Image, Intro to Church, or Making Right Choices
- Friends: Attitude Is Everything, Commitment to Christ, Family Life, Multiculturalism, Peer Pressure, or Self-Discipline
- Girls Only: Attitude, Family Relationships, Standing Firm, Will of God, or Women in Ministry

Collect Clothing/Shoes to Donate to the Homeless Shelter

How - Collect clothing items and shoes at your church to donate to the local homeless shelter. Contact the shelter to decide on the best way to drop off the items.

Why - To address the needs of the less fortunate by donating gently used items for them to have proper attire.

Suggested Units

- Daisies: Giving, Helping, Loving, or Sharing
- Prims: Church, Community, Family, Helpers, or Kindness
- Stars: Citizenship, Family, In His Image, or Intro to Church
- Friends: Attitude Is Everything, Child Care, Commitment to Christ, Family Life, or Self-Esteem
- Girls Only: Attitude, Family Relationships, or Women in Ministry

SERVE DAY IDEAS

Provide a Foster Care Families Fun Day

How - Work with foster care agencies to determine greatest need.

Why - Opening your church creates an avenue for families to connect and for all kids to have fun!

Suggested Units

- Daisies: Giving, Helping, Loving, or Sharing
- Prims: Church, Community, Family, Friendship, Helpers, or Kindness
- Stars: Citizenship, Family, Friendship, Growing, In His Image, or Intro to Church
- Friends: Attitude Is Everything, Child Care, Commitment to Christ, Family Life, Friends for Life, Multiculturalism, or Self Esteem
- Girls Only: Attitude, Family Relationships, Friendship Factor, or Women in Ministry

Adopt a School to Help with Repairs and Preparations

How - Contact local schools about any smaller projects. Allow schools to determine the priority of projects and see how you can help with gathering supplies and volunteers.

Why - To build relationships with schools and to provide a serving outlet for many people.

Suggested Units

- Daisies: Giving, Helping, Loving, or Sharing
- Prims: Church, Community, Family, Helpers, or Kindness
- Stars: Citizenship, Family, Growing, In His Image, or Intro to Church
- Friends: Attitude Is Everything, Commitment to Christ, or Family Life
- Girls Only: Attitude, Family Relationships, or Women in Ministry

Host a Game Night at a Senior Living Facility

How - Contact local senior living facilities to plan a game night with the residents. Follow all health protocols for visitation. Have the kids play games, color, and bring smiles!

Why - Seniors sometimes live away from immediate family members. Doing this provides another opportunity for the girls to serve outside the church and to build new relationships.

Suggested Units

- Daisies: Giving, Helping, Loving, or Sharing
- Prims: Church, Community, Family, Friendship, Helpers, or Kindness
- Stars: Citizenship, Family, Friendship, Growing, In His Image, Intro to Church, or Personal Evangelism
- Friends: Attitude Is Everything, Commitment to Christ, Family Life, Friends for Life, Multiculturalism, Personal Evangelism, Sanctity of Life
- Girls Only: Attitude, Family Relationships, Fit for Life, Friendship Factor, Truth, Will of God, or Women in Ministry

SERVE DAY UNIT SUGGESTIONS

If your Girls Ministries group chooses a community project other than the ones suggested in this document, consider using Serve Day as the project for any of these units, based on where you are serving.

For example, if you choose to serve at a local pregnancy care center by collecting and building care packages or by building information packets, then you could use that as the project for the units below.

- Daisies: Giving, Helping, Loving, or Sharing before the Serve Day event
- Prims: Community, Kindness, or Missions
- Stars: Citizenship, In His Image, Intro to Church, Making Right Choices, or US Missions
- Friends: Child Care, Choices, Commitment to Christ, or Sanctity of Life
- Girls Only: Pro-Life vs Pro-Choice, Standing Firm, Truth, or Women in Ministry

DAISIES

- Following
- Giving
- Helping
- Loving
- Sharing

PRIMS

- Church
- Community
- Family
- Friendship
- Helpers
- Kindness
- Missions

STARS

- Citizenship
- Family
- Friendship
- Growing
- In His Image
- Intro to Church
- Intro to World Missions
- Making Right Choices
- Personal Evangelism
- US Missions

FRIENDS

- Accountability
- Attitude Is Everything
- Child Care
- Choices
- Commitment to Christ
- Family Life
- Friends for Life
- Life-Controlling Problems
- Multiculturalism
- Personal Evangelism
- Sanctity of Life
- Self-Discipline
- Self-Esteem

GIRLS ONLY

- Addiction
- Attitude
- Family Relationships
- Fit for Life
- Friendship Factor
- Pro-Life vs. Pro-Choice
- Standing Firm
- Truth
- Will of God
- Witnessing
- Women in Ministry