

NATIONAL DAYS OF SERVICE/SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES 2009 - 2010

November 2009

Youth Appreciation Week (Second full week in November)

The second full week in November, Optimist Clubs recognize local youth for their efforts in the arts, athletics, academics and community service work. Youth Appreciation Week projects are intended to make children feel important and highlight their positive contributions to society.

<http://www.optimist.org/e/member/activities3.cfm>

World Kindness Day (November 13, 2009) and World Kindness Week (November 9-15)

The purpose of World Kindness Day/week is to look beyond ourselves, beyond the boundaries of our country, beyond our culture, our race, our religion; and realize we are citizens of the world. The Random Acts of Kindness™ Foundation inspires people to practice kindness and to "pass it on" to others. They provide free educational and community ideas, guidance, and other resources to kindness participants through their website.

<http://www.actsofkindness.org>

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week (November 16-21)

Each year, one week before Thanksgiving, National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign against Hunger and Homelessness co-sponsor National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. During this week, a number of schools, communities and cities take part in a nationwide effort to bring greater awareness to the problems of hunger and homelessness.

<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/projects/awareness/index.html>

National Family Volunteer Day (November 21)

Designed to showcase the benefits of families working together, introduce community service, and encourage those who haven't yet made the commitment to volunteer as a family, National Family Volunteer Day is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving and kicks off National Family Week.

<http://disney.go.com/disneyhand/familyvolunteers/>

National Family Week (November 22-28)

The national family week embraces the premise that children live better lives when their families are strong, and families are strong when they live in communities that connect them to economic opportunities, social networks, and services. It is observed during Thanksgiving week. <http://www.nationalfamilyweek.org>

December 2010

International Volunteer Day (December 5)

The United Nations General Assembly designates December 5 as an annual celebration of voluntary action by people, communities and governments of the world. <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/index.php?id=3060>

January 2010

National Mentoring Month (January)

During National Mentoring Month, attention is focused on how mentoring benefits the child, adult and society, as a whole. It is also a time to thank those mentors who are "everyday heroes" to their mentees and to encourage others to share the experience and become a mentor. <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/chc/wmy2008/index.html>

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service (January 19)

You can be great because you can serve! Join thousands of Americans across the country that are honoring the life and work of Dr. King by serving their community by making the holiday "a day on" not "a day off."

<http://www.mlkday.org>

February 2010

Random Acts of Kindness Week (February 15-21)

Teachers enjoy emphasizing kindness on Valentine's Day because kindness, by its very nature, includes everyone. We can remind students how great it feels to be remembered with a Valentine, and that each of their peers needs this encouragement and connection with others. <http://www.actsofkindness.org>

March 2010

Read Across America (March 2)

The National Education Association sponsors this annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on or around the birthday of Dr. Seuss, March 2. <http://www.nea.org/readacross>

April 2010

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we renew our commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect, and we dedicate ourselves to creating a safe environment in which our children can grow and thrive. <http://www.preventchildabuse.org>

National Poetry Month

Thousands of businesses and non-profit organizations around the country celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture through readings, festivals, book displays, workshops, and other events. <http://www.poets.org/npm>

International Children's Book Day (April 2)

Celebrated on or around Hans Christian Andersen's birthday, April 2, to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books. <http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=269>

National Volunteer Week (April 18-24)

National Volunteer Week encourages all Americans to commit themselves to do more through the many volunteer programs available in their communities, and to celebrate the invaluable service that volunteers do everyday. <http://www.pointsoflight.org/>. Please also see <http://www.handsonnetwork.org/programs/more/nvv>

Earth Day (April 22)

Earth Day activities join people who are committed to protecting public health and the environment for generations to come. <http://www.earthday.gov>

World Book Day (April 23)

A world-wide tribute to books and authors, sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Everyone, and in particular young people, are encouraged to discover the pleasure of reading and gain a renewed respect for the irreplaceable contributions of those who have furthered the social and cultural progress of humanity. www.unesco.org/culture/bookday

National and Global Youth Service Day (April 23-25)

National and Global Youth Service Day mobilizes millions of youth to identify and address the needs of their communities through service. It is also an opportunity to recruit the next generation of volunteers and educate the public about the role of youth as community leaders. <http://www.ysa.org/nysd>

May 2010

Older Americans Month (May)

Historically, Older Americans Month has been a time to acknowledge the contributions of past and current older persons to our country, in particular those who defended our country. Older Americans Month is celebrated across the country through ceremonies, events, fairs and other such activities.

<http://www.aoa.gov/press/oam/oam.asp>

Join Hands Day (May 2, 2009) First Saturday in May

Bring youth and adults together on the first Saturday in May to improve their own communities. A benefit of the day comes through the friendships that will be made across generations. The new partnerships will be an important first step in bringing more young people into leadership roles in many organizations.

<http://www.joinhandsday.org>

July 2010

National Summer Learning Day (July 9, 2009)

Summer Learning Day is a time for communities to celebrate the importance of high-quality summer learning opportunities in the lives of young people and their families. Host an event in your community to raise awareness about how summer programs send young people back to school ready to learn, support working families, and keep children safe and healthy. <http://www.summerlearning.org/summerlearningday>

August 2010

National Night Out (August 3)

A unique crime/drug prevention event, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations, and local officials in block parties, parades, flashlight walks, contests, and more, to generate support and participation in anti-crime programs, and strengthen community-police partnerships. <http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/>

September 2010

Season of Service (September)

September kicks off the Season of Service with service projects throughout the country that demonstrate the power and purpose of corporate civic engagement through volunteer action. Corporations and businesses leverage resources to collectively engage employees, support neighborhoods, inspire other corporate leaders and increase public awareness about the impact of volunteering. While corporate engagement in communities happens year-round, the Season of Service provides alignment with national signature events and an opportunity to showcase the impact of corporate-driven volunteerism. <http://www.pointsoflight.org/events/season-service>

9-11 Remembrance Day (September 11)

The September 11 Digital Archive uses electronic media to collect, preserve, and present the history of the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania and the public responses to them. Funded by a major grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and organized by the American Social History Project at the City University of New York Graduate Center and the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, the Digital Archive has also formed partnerships with the Library of Congress, the American Red Cross Museum, and the Smithsonian Institution. <http://www.911digitalarchive.org/>

National Neighborhood Day (September 20, 2009)

Celebrated on the third Sunday of September, the mission of National Neighborhood Day is to inspire, build, and sustain the neighborhood relationships that provide the foundation for civic action and the building of stronger, more caring and effective communities. <http://www.neighborhoodday.org>

National Public Lands Day (September 26, 2009)

An annual event that brings volunteers together to improve the country's largest natural resource — its public lands. The event involves thousands of volunteers in all 50 states, including national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, forests, grasslands, marine sanctuaries, lakes, and reservoirs managed by government agencies, but belonging to everyone. <http://www.npld.com>

October 2010

Habitat for Humanity - World Habitat Day (First Monday in October)

The United Nations has designated the first Monday of every October as World Habitat Day. The day is intended to help reaffirm that adequate shelter is a basic human right, and to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat. Check with your local affiliate to learn how you can provide service on this day. <http://www.habitat.org/cd/local/affiliate.aspx?place=60>

Intergeneration Day/Week (First Sunday/week in October)

Creating an age-integrated community leads to a healthy community, where the strengths of one generation meet the needs of another. Connections are being made to combat the segregation and isolation of different generations. Intergeneration Day is celebrated on the first Sunday of October. <http://www.intergenerationday.org>

Lights on After School (October 21)

A project of the Afterschool Alliance, Lights on Afterschool is a nationwide event that aims to bring attention to the need for afterschool program that keep kids safe, help working families, and improve academic achievement. Click on 'Lights On' for more information on the event. <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/>

Make a Difference Day (Fourth Saturday in October)

A unique program that inspires and rewards volunteers. Everyone who helps others on the fourth Saturday of every October and sends in an entry form is eligible for a national or local award and for a cash donation to a charitable cause. It connects people with opportunities to serve, increases the strength of communities and promotes civic engagement. <http://www.handsonnetwork.org/>

November 2010

Youth Appreciation Week (Second full week in November)

The second full week in November, Optimist Clubs recognize local youth for their efforts in the arts, athletics, academics and community service work. Youth Appreciation Week projects are intended to make children feel important and highlight their positive contributions to society. <http://www.optimist.org/e/member/activities3.cfm>

World Kindness Day (November 14) and World Kindness Week (November 8-14)

The purpose of World Kindness Day/week is to look beyond ourselves, beyond the boundaries of our country, beyond our culture, our race, our religion; and realize we are citizens of the world. The Random Acts of Kindness™ Foundation inspires people to practice kindness and to “pass it on” to others. They provide free educational and community ideas, guidance, and other resources to kindness participants through their website. <http://www.actsofkindness.org>

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week (November 15-20)

Each year, one week before Thanksgiving, National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign against Hunger and Homelessness co-sponsor National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. During this week, a number of schools, communities and cities take part in a nationwide effort to bring greater awareness to the problems of hunger and homelessness.

<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/projects/awareness/index.html>

National Family Volunteer Day (November 20)

Designed to showcase the benefits of families working together, introduce community service, and encourage those who haven't yet made the commitment to volunteer as a family, National Family Volunteer Day is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving and kicks off National Family Week.

<http://disney.go.com/disneyhand/familyvolunteers/>

National Family Week (November 21-27)

National family week embraces the premise that children live better lives when their families are strong, and families are strong when they live in communities that connect them to economic opportunities, social networks, and services. It is observed during Thanksgiving week. <http://www.nationalfamilyweek.org>

December 2010

International Volunteer Day (December 5)

The United Nations General Assembly designates December 5 as an annual celebration of voluntary action by people, communities and governments of the world. <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/index.php?id=3060>