

NEHS ESurvey2009 Ideas: Service Projects

Among the questions asked of new NEHS advisers and principals in the 2009 ESurvey of member schools was a question asking for descriptions of the service activities undertaken by the chapter in their first year.

We received a great variety of responses and have summarized some of the best ideas in the list that follows. Several descriptions offered extensive text regarding the chapter and its activities and we hope to profile them online or in our publication as the year progresses. Links to national organizations or web sites are provided to supplement the content of the idea being shared.

Thanks to all who submitted ideas. We look forward to even more ideas in ESurvey 2010, coming in April.

<i>(Note: Projects sorted alphabetically by Category)</i>	
Project description	Category
Family Math and Science night where worked with engineering club to promote M&S curriculum	Academic support (ACAD)
Adopt a wild animal, www.NWF.org (See "Donate Now")	Animals
Bake sale for the local animal shelter	Animals
Exercise animals at the local humane society office; collect supplies needed by the same office	Animals
Fundraising for local Human Society, www.hsus.org	Animals
Local bird sanctuary assistance: cleaning cages, feeding wild birds who are injured, etc.	Animals
Raised money for Heifer International, www.heifer.org	Animals
SPCA food & blanket collection www.sPCA.org (TX) or www.sPCAi.org [other local/state SPCA group sites have additional ideas for projects]	Animals
Hat Day to raise money for Children with Cancer	Cancer
Pasta for Pennies (L&LSoc/cancer support), http://www.olivegarden.com/company/community/pasta_pennies.asp	Cancer
Relay for Life (ACS), \$1664.85 collected from bake sales and relay www.relayforlife.org	Cancer
Pennies for Patients in memory of a former student; 3 weeks; collection graphs (math skills) with pizza party for winning class; kickoff assembly organized by chapter; created donation boxes, hung posters, www.penniesforpatients.org	Cancer: L&LSoc
Clothing collection drive for local agencies	Clothing
Campus beautification by creating school garden with individual grade level planter boxes	ENV
Capri Sun pouch collection and recycling, http://www.terracycle.net/dpb/signup.htm	ENV
Earth Day focus: Give each teacher a plan; begin recycling for the	ENV

whole school; teach the student body about the importance of recycling.	
Led Earth Day Awareness discussions in classes, www.earthday.net or www.earthday.gov	ENV
Litter patrol at the school and in the school's neighborhood	ENV
Made a giant banner to advertise recycling for Earth Day; started a cell phone and printer ink cartridge recycling program; collecting pencil shavings from classrooms for use as mulch outside; students write "being green" articles for school newspaper each month	ENV
Paint benches, picnic tables at city parks	ENV
Park clean up, weeding, flower planting	ENV
Recycling by emptying classroom containers for teachers in the building	ENV
Recycling collections during the school's field day events	ENV
Recycling of papers and materials	ENV
Recycling plastic bottles from the cafeteria	ENV
School beautification project for plants funded by a grant from Lowe's store in the community. Garden designed by the students	ENV
Tree planning, www.arborday.org	ENV
School and neighborhood cleanup	Environmental (ENV)
Hosting the school's talent show with proceeds going to underprivileged children overseas	Events
Family support to raise money for losses in a fire: bake sale	Family support
Food collection for local food bank, www.feedingamerica.org	FOOD
Great American Bake Sale participation, www.greatamericanbakesale.org , raising money to help end childhood hunger in the US	Food
Holiday food basket collection and distribution	FOOD
Thanksgiving meal collection shared with needy families in the neighborhood for the holiday	Food
Food drive: Collecting, sorting @ food bank	Food Drives (FOOD)
Healthy Snacks Campaign, profits donated to the National Wildlife Federation.	Health
Jump-rope for Heart (AHA) with PE department, www.americanheart.org (see "Ways to Give")	Health
Cards for patients in hospitals with a note encouraging the recipients to send 3 more cards to others (include card making supplies)	HOSP
Collect and share DVDs and crayons/coloring books with local hospitals.	HOSP
Hospitality bags for families staying at the local Ronald McDonald House	HOSP
Project Linus: 78 blankets made by chapter and sent to national PL for distribution www.projectlinus.org	HOSP

School-wide project to collect goods to give to families at the Ronald McDonald House (#81 on P7)	HOSP
Stuffed animal drive for local hospital (new or gently used stuffed animals for children)	HOSP
Pop Tabs collection for Ronald McDonald charities, www.rmhc.org (see “How You Can Help”); while collecting tabs, collect the cans for recycling as well!	HOSP support (RMHC)
Placemats for local nursing home for Valentine’s Day (designed and drawn by students; laminated)	HOSP, nursing home
Car wash with proceeds going to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital	Hospital
Cranes for Cancer: 500 origami cranes folded and given to cancer center for survivor day, http://cranesforcancer.blogspot.com/	Hospital (HOSP), cancer
Pennies for Peace (Mortenson): read the book, ordered and distributed canisters at school and at businesses in the community, disseminated information; taught incoming members the project to sustain it for next year (building schools overseas) www.penniesforpeace.org	International
Supply drive for Kenyan orphans (pencils, crayons, toothbrushes, recycled “Happy Meal” toys)	International
Book Drive to supply incoming teachers with books for their classroom libraries (k-12)	Literacy
Before school reading and mentoring 1 st & K students	Mentor
Peer mentors for conflict resolution	Mentors
Reading to K and 1 st graders	Mentors
Postage and supplies collection for overseas military [Note: Find L4SA links]	Military support
Partner with a local non-profit museum by collecting and sharing office supplies with them	Museums
Raised money for the local scholarship for the feeder high school	Scholarships
“Rock Concert” – students pick up rocks from playground and ball fields to facilitate easier mowing; have music available and post cleanup refreshments	School support
Anti-bullying skit/message	School support
Assistance in organizing the school’s promotion ceremonies (K and 6 th grade)	School support
Banners for classrooms	School support
Book fair assistance in activity sponsored by the school library	School support
Build soccer nets and other sports facilities for the school	School support
Field Day assistance – set up and clean up for all-school event	School support
Flag ceremony at PTA/PTO meeting	School support
Greeters for school programs – PTA, promotions, etc	School support
Helping teachers with end-of-year cleaning	School support
Office assistance (mail, phones, questions, etc.)	School support
Run a school-supply cart to sell (or give) supplies to students that need them.	School support

School grounds clean up, picking up trash, to respond to reduction in custodial staff	School support
School tours: Serve as guides for incoming new students at orientation time (as organized by guidance/administration)	School support
Set up and clean up of school's book fair	School support
Providing feedback on student needs to the principal and the school's Student Needs Committee	School support, administration
Assist with annual Grandparents Day at school – greeters, registered guests, displays	School support, grandparents
Created and put on a Memorial Day assembly for the school	School support, holiday
Library helpers	School support, library
Student mediators: members trained to facilitate problem solving discussions for student/student conflicts	School support, mediators
Hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch for those who volunteer their time at our school during the year	School support, volunteers
Easter egg hunt for first grade teachers and students	School support: holiday
Socks for seniors to donate socks to elderly, sing Xmas carols	Senior Citizens (SRS)
Make beaded jewelry for senior center (or other crafts that are suitable and supported by faculty members or parents with skills)	Seniors
Valentines Day cards for senior citizens	Seniors
Teach PE classes about Diabetes; sponsor a Walk to Cure Diabetes, www.jdrf.org	Service learning
Crocs for the Needy: shoe collection, www.crocs.com (Search for Crocs Cares, formerly Soles United campaign)	Shoes
Create lunches for the homeless	Social service
Pennies for Prevention in support of prevention of child abuse as administered by a local foundation (Note: A variety of “pennies for prevention” campaigns exist focused around different causes)	Social service, child abuse prev.
Easter bags for local safe house for abused/neglected women and children: toiletries, candy, board games	Social services support
Helpers and mentors at the Special Olympics, www.specialolympics.org	Special Olympics
Greeting cards for senior citizens	SRS
Made placemats for the elderly at a local senior center	Srs
Peer tutors with 2 nd graders (Sit, Stay, and Read Day)	Tutors
Technology specialists: Members learned essential tech skills (PPT, MSWord, Publisher, Excel; created interactive lessons/games/assessments on SMART Board	Tutors, technology
Create and maintain a display for relatives of the student body who have served in the past or are presently serving in the military (as part of a Veterans Day activity)	Veterans
Veterans home presentation (class projects)	Veterans (VET)

We hope you have gleaned a few ideas or found a couple of new resources to share with your chapter officers from this list. If you have an additional project activity or a cause to share, please email them to nehs@nehs.org.