

# FINDING FRIENDS FOR CHANGE ACTION KIT

Helping PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES and the PLANET



## YOU'RE ABOUT TO ORGANIZE A SERVICE PROJECT AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR WORLD – WAY TO GO!



Your service project is a great way to include your friends, family, and neighbors so that they can help you make an even bigger difference in your community!

YSA
YOUTH SERVICE AMERICA
WWW.YSE.O.D.G.

This action kit, created by Disney's Friends for Change and YSA, will give you tips on how to find old and new "Friends For Change" for your service project!



#### FIGURE OUT WHAT'S YOUR PITCH?

Think about what inspired you to become a "Friend for Change," and how this could help you to get others to join you.

- What are your goals for your project? How might you get others to care about them as much as you do? Why do you want to organize a service project?
- Know your "Friends": Think about your friends and how you can connect your project to things that they care about, too!
- What can I do to help: Put together a list of all the tasks that you will want others to take on, and plan to share this list with your "Friends". Make sure each task sounds manageable, exciting, and fun to do!
- Create a timeline: Your new "Friends" will want to know what you will expect from them. Be sure they understand how much time the task might take, when it will start, and when it will end.

### ASK FRIENDS TO BUILD YOUR TEAM

neighbors to join with you on your team.

Now it's time to find others to help you make an even bigger difference! Invite your friends, classmates, teammates, student groups, family, and

- The More the Merrier: Don't limit the number of youth or adults you recruit for your project. Having a lot of volunteers motivates others to join your cause!
- Light THEIR Spark: Match up the interests, skills, and passions of your friends for change with what you will need for your project.
- Off to a good start: The sooner you recruit your team, the more help you will have in designing, shaping, and doing your project.

TIP:

To recruit and let others know you are looking for their help for your project, contact local radio and television stations and arrange for a spot in their volunteer or community events section.



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ALL ABOARD!

Talk to your classmates, teammates, student groups, and various adults to see if they are interested in helping with your service project. To help recruit volunteers, try the following:

- Use social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) and websites to spread the word about your issue, project, and your need for volunteers.
- Be sure to include adults ask your teachers, family, or local businesses to help with providing experience, advice, space, or materials.
- Connect with a local volunteer or youth community center and share your event and opportunities.

  This is a great way to connect with others who are passionate about making a difference like YOU!
- Invite your classmates and others at school to become a part of your event. Spread the word about your project during the morning or afternoon announcements.



Call or email all of your volunteers to thank them for joining you and to confirm their participation. Remind them about the date, time, and location of your project, and review the details about their tasks and responsibilities. (Remember to let your parents/guardians know before you make these calls.)



NOTES AND PROJECT IDEAS



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#### **REAL FRIENDS + REAL ACTION = REAL CHANGE**



#### **ENCOURAGE EFFECTIVE TEAMWORK**

Now that you have recruited all of your volunteers, it is time to organize everyone into small groups and assign projects and tasks.

- Meet with all of your volunteers to discuss your event and everything that they, and other members of your team, will be doing.
- If you are planning a big event, recruit even more friends and ask some to be team captains who will focus on managing volunteers, arranging logistics, getting publicity, and gathering resources for your project. Assign tasks to your "Friends" based on their experience and interests.
- Help everyone on your team understand how important their own piece is to the whole project!



Present your volunteers with
"Friends For Change" certificates
or small gifts to thank them and
let them know how much you
appreciate all of their
hard work with you!









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#### **BUILD PARTNERSHIPS**

Your service project is a great opportunity for you to work with other families, youth groups, neighbors, and local organizations or businesses. What if you don't want to lead the project yourself? Don't worry – there are MANY ways to be a Friend for Change. You can still add your spark to help come up with the ideas, plan, create, and carry out the project!

- The best partnerships are mutually helpful, and everyone shares the same goals and purposes.
- Find other kids, families, community groups, and business that share your goals, and ask them to join with you in recruiting volunteers, gathering supplies, or promoting your event.
- Stay in touch! Communicate often with your partners. Keep everyone up-to-date about the progress of your project, by setting up regular planning meetings or by establishing a regular check-in time along the way.
- Visit www.YSA.org/partners to learn more about connecting with other schools, young people, organizations, and businesses.

We know you're working hard to make a positive lasting change in your world! Thanks for all you do and for inspiring others to take action, too!

### NOTES AND PROJECT IDEAS





