

# 25 Amazing Service Ideas for High School Students

Helping Others, Making a  
Difference

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# President's Volunteer Service Award

Earn a national award for your dedication, commitment, and contribution to your community.

<b>Hours Required to Earn Awards in Each Age Group</b>				
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Bronze</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Lifetime Achievement Award</b>
Kids (5-10 years old)	26-49 hours	50-74 hours	75+ hours	4,000+ hours
Teens (11-15)	50-74 hours	75-99 hours	100+ hours	4,000+ hours
Young Adults (16-25)	100-174 hours	175-249 hours	250+ hours	4,000+ hours
Adults (26+)	100 – 249 hours	250-499 hours	500+ hours	4,000+ hours

# DISCOVER YOUR PASSION

Animal Volunteer

Challenged, Disabled,  
Handicapped

Charity Walk/Runs

Children/Kids Athletics &  
Support

Civic Engagement



Community Education  
Computer Science/Technology  
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion  
Volunteerism  
Elderly  
Environment



Environmental Organizations  
Healthcare/Medicine  
Houseless & Disadvantaged  
Medical Mission  
Trips/Volunteerism  
Medicine/Disease Blood &  
Immune Disorders





Medicine/Disease Neurological &  
Developmental  
Disorders

Medicine/Disease Organ-Specific Orgs  
Outdoor

Politics, International Affairs, Military  
Refugee Support

Religious Services & Facilities

Research – Business, Data, Law,  
International Relations, STEM

School Volunteer

Teaching, Events, News, Broadcast

Veteran Support



A close-up photograph of a green lawn sprinkler head in operation. The sprinkler is positioned on the left side of the frame, and a powerful stream of water is being sprayed outwards to the right, creating a misty, dynamic effect. The background is a lush green lawn, slightly out of focus, with some blades of grass in the foreground being more prominent. The overall scene is bright and fresh, suggesting a well-maintained garden or lawn.

# Sharing the Impact on College Applications

# Sample Activity Statements

## Lincoln Community Health Clinic Volunteer

I welcomed underserved patients, translated for Spanish-speaking families, and shadowed physicians. Over time, I trained new volunteers, helped streamline intake procedures, and developed a Spanish-language pamphlet to explain hypertension. Witnessing firsthand the inequities in healthcare inspired me to pursue majors in Spanish and Medical Humanities, examining these situations through a lens of cultural humility and patient empowerment. In one indelible moment, I helped a diabetic grandmother understand her insulin regimen while patiently listening to her concerns. She squeezed my hand, saying, “Gracias, miyo.” Her gratitude demonstrated to me that compassion and effective communication can bridge the barriers to care.





## Literacy Program Tutor

I volunteered on Saturdays at our public library, mentoring elementary school students in reading. Many came from non-English-speaking homes. I created vocabulary games to help them feel confident in reading aloud. One student, Yusef, initially refused to speak. By spring, he was reading out loud to the group. Watching him beam with pride reminded me that literacy builds confidence, voice, and possibility. I realized that service is about consistency and patience, and that every child deserves dignity, respect, and empowerment.



## Neighborhood Food Bank Organizer

After seeing community members waiting in long lines at our local food bank, I coordinated a weekly donation drive at my high school. I recruited fifteen volunteers, partnered with local grocers, and distributed over 3,000 pounds of food. I helped implement a drive-through during the pandemic to ensure safety. This experience taught me how logistical details can have a significant human impact. As a team leader, I listened, adapted, and took responsibility to ensure success.

# Nursing Home Volunteer

Every Sunday, I read aloud, played piano, and assisted with bingo at Rosewood Nursing Home. I loved listening to shared wisdom and fascinating stories. I formed a special bond with Mrs. Adler, who had advanced dementia. Though she often forgot my name, she remembered the music I played. When she hummed along to “Moon River,” I realized that memories deeply embedded in the brain still exist. One day, as a neuroscience major, I vow to help bring back recollections that were once considered lost. With Mrs. Adler, I slowed down, listened intently, and offered comfort through companionship. Volunteering at Rosewood reshaped my understanding of aging, compassion, and the power of empathy.



# Helping Disabled Veterans at a Clinic

At the VA rehabilitation clinic, I assisted veterans with mobility challenges during their physical therapy appointments. After noticing patients struggling to find their way, I suggested alternative transportation logistics and advocated for clearer signage. Listening to stories of service and sacrifice, especially from amputees who were learning to walk again, instilled a deep sense of respect and humility. One veteran commented, “You make my day easier.” That statement stays with me. This experience strengthened my commitment to service rooted in dignity, advocacy, and honoring those who served.



# Community & National Volunteer Organizations

Assistance League

Boys Team Charity

California Scholarship Federation

Girls Team Charity

Key Club International

Lion's Heart

National Charity League

National Honor Society

National Junior Honor Society

National League of Young Men

Young Men's Service League



# Making a Difference

Powerfully Motivational Quote

“I am only one, but I am one. While I cannot do everything, I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do” - Edward Everett Hale

# Translating Passion into Action

Ideas for Showing Passion for College Applications

For only \$9.50, you can purchase the expanded version of this list that includes 200+ possibilities and suggestions to turn ideas into action!

*Community Service Opportunities for High School Students: 200+ Ideas for Service, Eagle Awards, Gold Awards, and Capstones*



# By starting now and accumulating hours, you can earn one of the following Presidential awards.

Even if these are gone for now, they will come back.

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Get more ideas along with organizations, project ideas, and essays to stand out!!!

Purchase the \$5 expanded idea-generating list.

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[Click Here for 200+ Ways to Stand Out](#)