

SERVICE CHALLENGE

PURPOSE: To encourage students to make Christian service an integral part of their lifestyle

PROCESS:

Each participant will:

- Complete service projects and be certain that documentation is submitted no later than the Challenge Event Deadline (2 weeks prior to convention). (See submission guidelines.)

The Church Coordinator will:

- Work with the participant to verify each project as to the level of participation for that individual.
- Mail the verified Certification Form and the report to the Event Coordinator on or before the Challenge Event Deadline. (See guidelines on "Submitting Documentation")

The Event Coordinator will:

- Assume responsibility for the Mid-West LTC Service Challenge.
- Receive and log Service Challenge Certification Forms and attached questions.
- Send confirmation of receipt of the Certification Forms if requested by Church Coordinator.
- Assign appropriate awards and report results to the Awards Committee.
- Complete evaluation form to provide feedback to the participant.

GUIDELINES:

Participant Eligibility

- Participants in grades 3 – 12 are eligible for this event.

Individual Service Projects versus Group Service Projects

- Individual (independent) projects must be completed by an individual outside of a church or group activity. Participants are encouraged to do at least half of their projects individually.

Suggested Service Projects

The lists below are **ONLY IDEAS**. Participants are encouraged to look for service opportunities around them and serve, whether they are on the lists or not. Please remember the purpose of this event when choosing projects. A major undertaking (e.g. mission trip, VBS, etc) can count as two projects. Each project must be listed separately (i.e. door-knocked for VBS, taught a class for VBS, served refreshments for VBS). A major event (e.g. mission trip or VBS) should cover at least three consecutive days. Also church coordinators may need to list two group projects together as one project depending on the level of participation of the individual.

IMPORTANT: The same project may only be completed no more than two times for credit.

Project Suggestions for Grades 3 – 6 (Guideline: Student should spend at least 1 hour per project)

- Write five sympathy cards to appropriate people or notes of encouragement to shut-ins, sick, etc.
- Bring three different friends to visit local congregation, Bible studies, or youth activities.
- Spend one hour picking up trash somewhere in community.
- Make, paint, or color five pictures or cards for children in a hospital or children's home.
- Choose five articles of clothing from personal wardrobe and donate to organization that distributes to needy families. (Benevolent clothing room, etc.)
- Skip a meal and donate the amount of money that would have been spent on that meal to an organization that feeds hungry people.
- Write and mail letters to three missionaries encouraging them in their work.
- Put together and mail one care package to a missionary and/or his/her family.
- Help a shut-in from your local church or an elderly neighbor with chores at their home for a total of three hours. (Rake leaves, mow yard, shovel snow, pull weeds, wash dishes, etc.)
- Work on a recycling project (aluminum cans, plastic bags, etc.) for at least one month and donate the money made to a non-profit organization.
- Help prepare and deliver a meal for two sick or shut-in families.
- Make three visits of encouragement to people who are sick, shut-in, hospitalized, or in a nursing home.
- Create other service projects. The Church Coordinator must approve these. These projects should be consistent in time and effort required with that of the other projects listed.

Project Suggestions for Grades 7 – 12: (Guideline: Student should spend at least 3 hours per project)

- a. Baby-sit free of charge for a total of three hours.
- b. Locate a needy family and personally put together a "Care Package" (food, toys, etc.) and deliver to the family personally.
- c. Put together and mail two care packages to a needy family in another country, a missionary or his/her family, or a college student.
- d. Help three or more shut-ins from your local church or elderly neighbors with chores at their home for a total of eight hours. (Rake leaves, mow yard, shovel snow, pull weeds, wash dishes, wash windows, etc.)
- e. Spend a total of three hours picking up trash somewhere in community or in an "adopt-a-highway" program.
- f. Participate in a youth group "work camp" or spend at least five hours helping clean or repair a Christian youth camp.
- g. Work on a recycling project (aluminum cans, plastic bags, etc.) for at least three months and donate the money made to a non-profit organization.
- h. Write twelve sympathy cards to appropriate people or notes of encouragement to shut-ins, sick, etc
- i. Bring five different friends to visit local congregation, Bible study, or youth activity.
- j. Choose ten articles of clothing from personal wardrobe and donate to organization that will distribute to needy families. (Benevolent clothing room, etc.)
- k. Contact a children's home and arrange to be a pen pal with one of the children. (Send at least six letters in a three month period)
- l. Skip five meals (not all at once) and donate the amount of money that would have been spent on those meals to an organization that feeds hungry people.
- m. Write and mail letters to six missionaries encouraging them in their work.
- n. Volunteer eight hours to help church staff (secretaries or ministers).
- o. Make five visits of encouragement to people who are sick, shut-in, hospitalized, or in a nursing home.
- p. Prepare and deliver food to three families who need help. (Hospital, illness, death, etc.)
- q. Create other service projects. The Church Coordinator must approve these. These projects should be consistent in time and effort required with that of the other projects listed.

Participant-Created Service Projects

- Participants are encouraged to create service projects that meet the needs of an individual, build up the church, or improve the community. (This is optional).
- If a participant creates his/her own service project, the idea should be included in the written report (typed or printed legibly) and he/she should use the project number for "other service projects" in the list above.

Submitting Material (Certification & Other Material)

The following material will be sent to the Event Coordinator, no later than the Challenge Event Deadline:

- Certification Form (2 pages) that vouches for each participant's service projects must be submitted in order for awards to be given. These must be typed or legibly printed.
 - a. The church coordinator will sign the Certification Form after the participant has completed the service projects. Parents or other adults who have knowledge of the service done can confirm these.
- Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard to the Event Coordinator if you wish to receive confirmation that the Certification Forms and reports were received.

The Service Challenge forms may be submitted via the postal service or email. If emailed, the **church coordinator** MUST send the documents to the event coordinator and vouch for their authenticity. (A Microsoft Word version of the forms is available on the website.)

AWARDS:

Gold: 12 projects

Silver: 8 projects

Bronze: 5 projects

Participant: 1 to 4 projects

SERVICE CHALLENGE CERTIFICATION FORM

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This Section to be filled out by Student

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Congregation: _____

Address: _____

City/State _____ Phone (____) _____

Signature of student: _____ Grade: _____

Service Projects You Completed:

Instructions:

Using the list of suggested projects in the Service Challenge Guidelines, indicate the Project Letter. Indicate whether the project was a group or individual effort. The church coordinator must initial the last project listed, certifying that all information on this form is accurate. The student must provide a brief description of the project.

	Project Letter	G=Group I=Indiv	Description of Project
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			

SERVICE CHALLENGE CERTIFICATION FORM

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Answer Briefly Below (or on a separate sheet of paper)

(These questions must be answered for consideration of awards)

Which service project did you learn the most from? Why?

Which service project was the most frustrating? Why?

Which was the most fun? Why?

Which project do you think most fits the current year's LTC theme? Why?

This Section to be filled out by Church Coordinator

This is to certify that the participant named above has successfully completed the requirements of the Service Challenge. This participant has met the requirements for a _____ award by completing the above listed service projects. (Refer to the Guidelines for the award based on the number of service projects completed.) The student has also completed *Service Challenge Report Section above*.

Signature of adult certifying completion _____

Student [is ____ // is not ____] attending convention. (Check one)