

Introduction



Dear Teacher,

The September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance was formally established in 2009 under federal law as a constructive way to forever honor those who were lost in the tragedy, the sacrifices made by many others, and to remember the remarkable way people throughout the United States and in many other nations came together under a spirit of unity, compassion, and service in the immediate aftermath of the attacks.

The purpose of this Educator's Guide is to help teachers educate students about both sides of 9/11—the tragic events of that day, but also the remarkable goodness that so many people exhibited in response to 9/11. With your help and expertise as an educator, children will learn valuable, heartfelt, and constructive lessons about the 9/11 experience, the way tragedies impact us as people, and the remarkable spirit of service that arose in response to the attacks. Through your instruction, we hope that many students will gain renewed appreciation for the diverse communities in which they live; cultivate a deeper understanding of those who may be different from them; and develop a greater sense of service and compassion in their daily lives.

Throughout this Educator's Guide you will find an assortment of suggested lessons. However, we invite you to bring forth your own ideas and tailor them to fit the needs of your students and the messages you hope to deliver.

Thank you again for your support. For more information, please visit 911day.org, or contact us at info@911day.org.

Sincerely,

David Paine
MyGoodDeed, Inc.

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Lesson 1: The Spirit of Service

Students will understand the idea of *service* and connect it with the spirit of unity that transpired and was sustained for months in the wake of the September 11, 2001, attacks.

Lesson 2: A Cause to Believe In

Students will select causes or organizations to support through service projects launching on September 11, 2010, the ninth anniversary of the attacks. Projects can last one day, one week, or an entire semester.

Lesson 3: Proud to Be of Service

Students will plan and execute service project(s) that kick off on the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance, September 11, 2010.

Download these Family Materials at 911day.org or visit scholastic.com/911day:

- Letter to Families
- Family Handout
- Permission Form

A Few Guidelines to Keep in Mind



The goal of the 9/11 National Day of Service program is for students to adopt charities or causes that they can support personally or as a

group—specifically on 9/11, or any other day or period of time you designate. Here are a few guidelines to keep in mind.

1. We have found that projects work best if students can support and monitor a cause over a period of time. The cause they choose does not need to be connected to a charitable organization. It can be personal, such as helping family members or neighbors in some way, or performing good deeds for a period of time. You may also decide to create a group project, in which the entire class selects a single cause it intends to support for the day or, preferably, for an extended period of time. This effort can be part of “Semester of Service” learning programs that are presently available through select nonprofit national service organizations. You can visit **911day.org** for these materials.
2. Students can quickly research and adopt any local and national nonprofit charity at **911day.org**. They can also post their own plans to support a specific personal cause.
3. In addition to this Educator's Guide, you can visit **911day.org** to access, review, and download detailed age-appropriate lesson plans, as well as top-flight resources to help you plan service projects with your students. When you register to use these materials, you will be able to make and distribute copies, at no cost or obligation, to other teachers and students as long as the intended use is educational and not for any commercial purpose or financial gain.
4. After September 11, we may send you a short Internet survey to gather your feedback on the program. Please take just a few moments to complete it.
5. Don't forget to involve your students' families. Families can be a great source of volunteers, encouragement, and resources. Use the Family Materials that are part of this program to gather help from the entire community.

