

Lodge/Community Activities That Work

Children/Families

Sponsor local students to Boy's and Girl's State (contact your local American Legion).

Adopt a needy family during the holidays and gather food and/or presents.

Sponsor a pancake breakfast with the Boy or Girl Scouts.

Volunteer to deliver food or toys during the holidays.

Create an event for kids at a county or state fair.

Join with a local group to help with donations and distribution of toys for the holidays.

Mount a drive to collect coats for kids. Arrange to have them cleaned.

Volunteer to read at a local library.

Build a play area in a local park.

Host a Games Day for kids with a community celebration. Work with your local recreation or parks board.

Sponsor a public speaking contest open to high school senior boys and girls.

Sponsor a photo contest for young people in association with a local mall or store.

Judge, display and give prizes.

Sponsor a major essay or writing contest for kids. Arrange to have the winning essays published.

Hold a fundraiser (pancake feed, etc.) for a local youth group.

Contact your local YMCA or YWCA for opportunities to volunteer.

Pay a video store to provide a number of videos to a local hospital or children's care center.

Schools

Children's Holiday Party. Hold a party for all the kids in your town. Open your hall, get a Santa, and maybe some Shrine clowns. Give sacks of fruit and candy. A side benefit – this is fun.

Sponsor a grade school sports event.

Sponsor an environmental or other club at a local high school.

Adopt a local elementary school and work with the principal to develop ways to help.

Develop with your local schools, a program to recognize teachers who do an excellent job with children.

Offer scholarships in conjunction with the Grand Lodge Scholarship Program.

Contact your local school or Department of Education to develop special programs and help with costs.

Read to children on a regular schedule.

Initiate a scholarship program for learning excellence and present a cash award or savings bond to one student in each grade who meets established criteria.

Hold an event with the school to raise funds for a specific need like computers.

Assist the librarian in an after-hours volunteer reading program to promote reading enjoyment for adults and children.

Organize a book exchange so students and members of the community can donate books for children and adults. Distribute through the school library.

Deliver books and other learning materials to children who are out of school for an extended period.

Volunteer as chaperones or hosts for school-related field trips/events.

Develop a contest in which students who read the greatest number of books receive an award or prize.

Sponsor a creative writing contest in which children write about a specific subject and the Lodge arranges for special prizes or awards.

Provide teachers or the library with subscriptions to magazines for children.

Fund an after-school or summer reading program on school property. Provide compensation for teachers and materials. Parents could also pay.

Establish a forum where students who want or need extra assistance can go for help. The Lodge could be a learning center. Compensation may be required.

Arrange for a limited number of part-time jobs for students with a need and an excellent academic record. Don't let hours exceed 15 hours a week or schoolwork might suffer.

Host a book fair with parents and teachers with proceeds going to the library.

Reward learning excellence by offering summer jobs to kids who meet pre-determined criteria.

Showcase students in your Lodge newsletter who have achieved academic excellence.

Provide in-school day care on a for parents who need to visit the school.

Showcase the names of the All-Star Reading Team in the local newspaper. Arrange for photos of the students to go with the article.

Offer the local high school a series of field trips to businesses in the community so that students gain additional knowledge about the workplace.

Arrange for equipment from businesses represented by Lodge members to be donated to the school.

Volunteer to work at school as a tutor or mentor.

Identify needs in music and art.

Purchase a video for the school and donate it in the name of the Lodge.

Arrange for selected merchants in town to provide a small discount for children and faculty members.

Underwrite and organize a contest that would ask students to become familiar with the town's history. Ask for a display, model, map or some other type of project that would encourage their additional discovery.

Arrange and host a Read-A-Thon where students assemble in the school one day each quarter for a reading experience. Arrange for games, prizes, instruction, book sales and other activities.

Provide a video library for a school. Buy tapes from a 'wish list' for the school library. (Put your Lodge's name and a brief statement about Freemasonry on the case.)

Sponsor an unsung hero's award to spotlight the high school boy or girl that the coaches or drama or music instructors identify as unselfish in their support of their high school team or group.

Host a local alcohol or drug awareness seminar for all students. Work with local social service agencies.

Develop a reading and writing pal program with the school. Ask each Lodge member to partner with one student for one year. Assume that each member will commit one hour on the phone per week and one two-hour, face-to-face every other week for a year.

Provide a video library for a school. Buy tapes from a 'wish list' for the school library. (Put your Lodge's name and a brief statement about Freemasonry on the case.)

Organize and underwrite a special Discovery Series of field trips to unusual places for students. Work with school authorities to learn of the important places you might visit. Encourage innovation and discovery by sponsoring a Discovery Fair in association with your local science teacher. Contribute prizes.

Work with local businesses to hold a Creative Fair. Students submit artwork, photos, videotapes, original music and creative writing for scholarships and prizes.

Develop, host and sponsor a Classics Film Forum. Your local librarian should have a list of rental films suitable for showing in the schools.

Provide transportation for student the school identifies as needing help getting to local school events. (Check with your insurance agent.)

Develop a county-wide poster contest promoting goodwill, racial understanding and parental involvement. Arrange for year-long sponsorship and involvement. Get local businesses to display entries and winners. Have the winning posters made into T-shirts with the artist's name, school and your Lodge's name on it.

Community

Sponsor or assist with the July 4th celebration.

Provide medical supplies for local EMT unit.

Provide funds and labor to renovate local ballpark.

Raise funds to assist public library.

Help a local hospital in a volunteer or fundraising effort.

Help the local United Way with its volunteer effort.

Sponsor a food-for-the-hungry campaign with a local store or business.

Visit the elderly at a nursing home.

Partner with a local charity to raise funds for cancer research.

Develop an award for excellent contributions to the environment.

Assist with traffic control at a community event.

Adopt a local library, playground, park, memorial, public area or public facility to keep it clean, safe and operational.

Volunteer to run a local food kitchen during a holiday and underwrite the costs of meals.

Partner with any successful agency in town to solve a community problem.

Identify a small but important community project that needs a fix-up and paint job.

Gather books from the community and members to hold a book fair. Lodge families work the fair. All profits will support a community cause.

Consider getting involved in immediate causes. Perhaps a child needs money for an organ transplant, a band needs funds to appear at a college bowl game or a family is in a desperate situation.

Identify objects that need a coat of paint (park benches, swing sets, fences, etc.)

Identify a local stream or small river and clean the banks of waste and debris.

Host a flea market with funds helping a local charity.

Plant and water a garden project for medians in your community's streets.

Arrange an exhibit for local artists to display and sell their works. Get judges to select the best in different categories for prizes. Consider including crafts.

Volunteer to serve as drivers at a local senior citizens home for a weekly trip to a store or business.

Organize a local blood drive, relying on members to donate blood.

Volunteer to help the Salvation Army raise funds during the holidays.
Organize a recycling point in your community. Work with your local newspaper and appropriate agencies to establish it as a one-day event or as an ongoing activity.
Assist local charities with phone-a-thons that raise money for their cause. You could get on-air credit for helping.
Work with local optometrists or ophthalmologists to provide transportation for those unable to get to the doctor's office for glasses or treatment.
Volunteer to serve as parade marshals or to direct traffic at a local event.
Organize a symposium about child abuse, alcohol and drug abuse, or spousal abuse. Partner with a local college, hospital or social services agency.
Volunteer to help with a crisis hotline.
Arrange to help a local agency check on seniors each day at their homes.
Deliver meals to seniors.
Volunteer to help at a hospital.
Support your local literacy council.
Help the League of Women Voters get out the message to vote by volunteering to hand out literature or making phone calls.
Seek to sponsor a sports tournament with your local parks and recreation department.
Adopt an area in your community that you will clean and secure for community use.
Adopt a section of a road or highway to keep clean of debris.
Provide staffing at local attractions like a zoo, museum, special exhibits or events, gardens, parks, visitors' bureau, etc.
Work at a soup kitchen to help feed the homeless.

Fraternity

Sponsor local youth to the Masonic All-Star Marching Band Camp.
Arrange for a cornerstone ceremony for a public building or church in your community.
Plan activities to raise money or volunteer the time of your brothers to support The Masonic Home, Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children and the Nebraska Masonic Foundation for ways your Lodge can help.
Hold a Widows Night or similar event to recognize them and to fulfill our charge to care for the widows of our brothers.
Host youth members of DeMolay, Job's Daughters or Rainbow for Girls at a Masonic Youth Recognition Night or day-time event.