



9/11 Book Drive (Grades 3–8)

Students plan a book drive to collect and donate new or slightly used books to a local organization serving young children.

Learn! Questions to investigate before getting started

- **Learn the facts.** 80% of preschool and after-school programs serving low-income populations do not have age-appropriate books for the children. One way to help low-income children improve their reading achievement is by increasing their access to print materials.
- **Speak to your administration.** Discuss the plan for hosting a book drive with your administration and get sign-off from all the necessary people.
- **Research organizations.** Explore local organizations that may be in need of books, such as Head Start facilities, local libraries, hospitals, etc., and choose a group to serve.
- **Reach out to the organization.** Find out whether the organization you're serving will accept donations of new and lightly used books. If so, what logistics need to be worked out? Do they have any restrictions on when and how donations can be delivered?
- **Ask students for recommendations.** Have students write a list of 5 to 10 books they would recommend to someone their age or younger. Include a selection of these books as donation recommendations on the book drive communication sent to the community.
- **Consider additional options.** Think about hosting a bake sale to raise funds to purchase new books as part of the book drive.

Share your good deed on Twitter and Facebook using #911Day.
(Or visit 911day.org)

Plan! Helpful hints to prepare for your 9/11 Day Project

- **Build a team.** In addition to students, invite parent volunteers to assist you with the book drive and with collecting and delivering the books.
- **Organize logistics.** Brainstorm the best way to organize the book drive. A typical book drive lasts two to three weeks, so consider kicking it off on 9/11 or the week of 9/11. In addition to your team, you will need boxes, storage space for collected books, and flyers. What type of collection boxes do you need? Where will they be located? Which days work best for the book drive? How many days should the drive last? What's the best way to get the word out?
- **Pick the times and location.** Decide where and when people can drop off their books. Seek input and approval from the school administration and custodial staff.
- **Set a goal.** Determine the number of books you would like to collect. Create and display a "book pictograph" that establishes the goal and tracks the number of books collected on an ongoing basis.
- **Develop a plan.** Create a schedule, identify tasks, and assign roles.

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- **Engage students.** Organize students into teams, and assign them roles.
- **Create flyers.** Have students design flyers with the date and time of the book drive, the type of books you're collecting, the goal, and the organization your donations will be going to.
- **Spread the word.** Plan the best way to distribute the flyers. For example, post them in the school hallways, faculty room, cafeteria, etc. Provide each teacher in the school with flyers to send home with their students. Post a notice on the school's website. If possible, send an email to families and faculty.
- **Reach out to local businesses.** Have students write letters to local bookstores to ask if they would be willing to donate books.
- **Coordinate a kick-off event.** Consider a "Let's Read" breakfast in which families can drop off their donations, have a light breakfast, and read together. Or have faculty members read their favorite books to their students.
- **Consider an incentive.** Motivate students to collect donations from family and friends with an incentive such as a gift card to a bookstore to the student who collects the most books.
- **Create a favorite book wall.** By the collection boxes, plan to post a large bulletin board for students, parents, and teachers to sign and write the name of their favorite book.
- **Plan the delivery.** Ask parents to help deliver the book donations to the group you're serving, or see if the group will collect the donations. Get directions for the drivers.
- **Prepare to say thank you to donors.** Have students create posters thanking donors and display them in the school hallways at the end of the event.

Do! Ready, set, go!

- **Set up the donation boxes and post signs.** Prepare the book drop-off areas and hang signs so people know where to bring their donations. Ensure that there's enough room to collect the items and that the area will be open and accessible throughout the collection period.
- **Include a reader's note.** Invite students and donors to write a note to the new book recipient in which they describe why they liked the book and hope the new reader likes it as well. They can sign their first name to personalize it. Provide paper and pens at the drop-off stations with signs requesting the notes.
- **Store the donated books.** If your event runs over the course of several days, empty the boxes daily and store the books.
- **Post the collection results.** Update the results daily throughout the event.
- **Prepare and send the books.** Once the event is over, count the books collected and sort them according to the guidelines of the organization you're serving. Package the students' and donors' notes with the books and arrange to have them delivered to the organization or collected.

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Think! Reflect on how your 9/11 Day Project has impacted students and the community

- **Celebrate your success.** Report the total number of books collected to all participants. Thank your participants. Consider what you might do differently next time.
- **Recap with students.** Ask students how they felt about doing a good deed to help others.

Keep it Going! Ideas to continue your 9/11 Day Project or to prompt others to get started

- **Spread the joy of reading.** Consider organizing a Reading Group or Book Buddies program for students to volunteer to read to younger children once a week as part of a wing-partnering program. Older students might visit local senior centers to read to seniors. Seek all permissions from your administration, parents, and outside organizations, and coordinate transportation to the senior centers if needed.
- **Visit serve.gov** for more ideas.

Share your Good Deed on Twitter, #911Day

- **Let the world know** what your class did to pay tribute on 9/11 by sharing your good deed (and pics) on Twitter or Facebook (hashtag #911Day). Also visit 911day.org for more info.



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