



JOIN THE 9/11 DAY OBSERVANCE



9/11 Day Observance Official Teacher's Guide



What good deed will your class do?

9/11 Day Supported By:

Education Program Co-Leaders



About 9/11 Day



Dear Teacher,

September 11 is now the nation's largest annually observance National Day of Service, recognized and established under bipartisan federal law. Last year a record 47 million Americans spent time on 9/11 helping others. For this 9/11, we'd like to encourage you and other educators to join in supporting this inspiring and growing annual observance, by inviting your students to consider good deeds or service projects they can perform individually or together in a constructive teaching setting. Please also take a moment now to visit 911day.org and make your pledge (there is no cost) to perform a good deed this year in observance of 9/11.

To help, the founder and lead nonprofit organizer of the 9/11 Day Observance, MyGoodDeed, has created free lesson plans and suggested project ideas for your review. We also invite you to submit your own 9/11 Day lesson plans to us at info@911day.org.

September 11 was established under federal law in 2009 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance to provide a permanent, positive and inspiring tribute honoring the victims of the 9/11 tragedy and all those who rose in service in response to the attacks. At the same time, the goal is to help teach future generations about the events of 9/11 in a constructive way, focusing on the spirit of unity, compassion, and service that arose in our nation in the immediate aftermath of the attacks.

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 how people throughout the nation banded together in response to the attacks. We believe that, with your thoughtful guidance, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Your friends at 9/11 Day

Learning from 9/11

September 11 is a day when we remember by doing. Through our good deeds and charitable service activities, we honor in a constructive way the victims of the 2001 terrorist attacks and also pay tribute to the many who rose in service in response to the attacks – our firefighters and EMTs, public safety officers, rescue and recovery workers, volunteers, and also our men and women in the armed forces. 9/11 Day encourages us to put aside our differences as people and band together to help others – the lesson we learned as a nation from the 9/11 experience.

Individuals and schools can participate in any fashion they want – any good deed counts. So this can include almost any project or activity that involves helping others in need. Even young children can think of things they can do. Like making their bed, helping a friend with homework, or cleaning up the house. Parents can participate as well by purchasing supplies for the classrooms, volunteering as a teacher's aide, or reading a book to a child.

Besides service, we also observe the day by seeking to rekindle the spirit of unity we shared as a nation in the immediate aftermath of the attacks.

The 9/11 Day Observance is unique in many ways.

September 11 will always be, first and foremost, a day when we remember those lost and injured in the 2001 terrorist attacks, and pay tribute to the many who rose in service in response to the attacks – our firefighters and EMTs, public safety officers, rescue and recovery workers, volunteers, and also our men and women in the armed forces. We engage in good deeds and other charitable activity in tribute to them. We encourage you, at your discretion and based on the age group of your students, to incorporate some aspects of remembrance as part of your program.

Although many people choose to volunteer as their tribute on 9/11, 9/11 Day is not just about volunteering. It is a day of doing good deeds of any kind to help someone else. While that can certainly include, and does include, volunteering activities, individuals can participate in any fashion they want, by making donations to causes, helping friends move, cleaning up the house, buying supplies for classrooms, or even giving out hugs to those we love and appreciate.

People often ask why 9/11 Day is also about promoting unity and putting aside differences. Anyone who was alive when 9/11 happened knows the answer: The 9/11 attacks brought America together in a way not seen since World War II. In a moment, whatever differences may have existed between people throughout the country were instantly dissolved and rendered trivial compared to what we all had in common – our fundamental compassion and concern for the well-being of others. We became a nation of people bonded together by the universal human spirit of goodness that lives in virtually all of us. For a brief period of time, we had the rare opportunity to view each other as neighbors, not as strangers, and we experienced briefly what our society might be like if we worked more closely together to solve our problems.





It was a remarkable and important moment that we hope to preserve in perpetuity in tribute to the 9/11 victims and others, expressed in this way:

On the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, as a way to pay tribute to, and remember the victims and others we wish to honor, we put aside whatever differences we may have at the moment, and work together to help others in need. That is the annual ritual, a fitting and appropriate tribute to the many who lost their lives and the countless others who were injured or came to the aid or defense of those in need.

The goal of the 9/11 Day program is to inspire students to perform good deeds personally or as a group as part of a lesson plan about 9/11.

Here are a few suggestions 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 good deed or cause they choose need not to be connected to a charitable organization. It can be personal, such as helping family members or neighbors in some way, or writing letters to first responders in the community. 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 to find links to many of these helpful organizations.
- 2.** In addition to the free lesson plans we offer, many of our partners have outstanding education materials, which can also be found at 911day.org. 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.
- 3.** Whenever possible involve your students’ families. Families can be a great source of volunteers, encouragement, and resources. If possible send the Parent’s Guide home with your children.

Thank you again for your support in the classroom!

For more information and additional resources, please visit 911day.org,
or contact the organizers at info@911day.org.
