


girl scouts
of wisconsin
badgerland



Community Service Resources

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Community Service Overview

For more than 100 years, Girl Scouts like you have been helping people and working to make the world a better place.

As a **G.I.R.L.** (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)[™] you can use your helping power now and forever to solve problems and make a difference at any age. Big changes can happen when people stand up for their beliefs.

You probably see things every day that you'd like to fix or make better. It can be a big or small problem. The important thing is to do something about it. If you need some help coming up with ideas here is a whole list of community organizations that would like your help.

Please remember that *Girls Scouts should wear their uniform or a Girl Scout t-shirt* when providing community service.

If you know of an organization that Girl Scout(s) have provided community service to that isn't on this list, please email us at info@gsbadgerland.org with the name of the organization, who you spoke with there and what your troop did for community service. Badgerland Council staff will contact them and add them to the list if they wish to be included.

If your girls are interested in making an impact with a Take Action project, refer to the last few pages of this resource list for information about Take Action projects and how they vary from community service projects.



Animals

Coulee Region Humane Society (La Crosse) 608.781.4014, www.couleehumane.com

Dane County Humane Society (Madison) 608.838.0413, www.giveshelter.org

Dubuque Humane Society (Dubuque, IA) 563.582.6766, www.dbqhumane.org

Humane Society of Jefferson County (Jefferson) 920.674.2048, www.hsjc-wis.com, shelter@hsjc-wis.com

Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin (Janesville) 608.752.5622, www.petsgohome.org

Lakeland Animal Shelter (Delevan) 262.723.1000, www.lakelandanimalshelter.org,
adopt@lakelandanimalshelter.org

Operation Happy Socks (council wide) <http://ohappysock.blogspot.com>, Create catnip stuffed socks for cats.

Rivers and Bluffs Animal Shelter (Prairie du Chien) Bev Pozega, wyalusing2012@gmail.com

Sauk County Humane Society (Baraboo) 608.356.2520, www.saukhumane.org, shelter@saukhumane.org

Touched by a Paw (Whitewater) 262.473.4769, www.touchedbyapaw.org, tbapcats@sbcglobal.net,
Make cat toys and blankets for donating to this cat-only shelter in Whitewater.

Vernon County Humane Society (Viroqua) 608.637.6955, www.vchumane.org, vchs@vchumane.org



Basic Needs (clothes, food, shelter)

- Congregational UCC** (Whitewater) 262.473.4101, www.whitewaterucc.org, Collect clothes or pop tabs for their clothes closet.
- Couleecap Community Action Program** (La Crosse) 608.782.4877, www.couleecap.org, contactus@couleecap.org, Donate food or help at a food pantry at several locations across the Coulee Region.
- Hunger Task Force** (La Crosse) 608.793.1002, lacrossehtf.org/volunteer
- Holy Family Parish & Education Center** (Arcadia) 608.323.7116, www.holyfam.com, Collect items for their OLPH Mission/Thrift Store.
- Kids Against Hunger** (Milton and Menomonie) www.kidsagainsthunger.org, www.kahrcr.com, Host an event working with the KAH volunteers)
- Mandrake Road Church of Christ** (Madison) 608.249.8049, Volunteer in homeless shelter, with the food and clothing pantries, or assist with child care during church services.
- Middleton Outreach Ministries** (Middleton) 608.826.3409, www.momhelps.org, Help collecting clothes and food.
- Project Linus** (council wide) www.projectlinus.org, Make blankets and donate them for distribution to sick children in the hospital.
- Porchlight** (Madison) 608.257.2534 x35 <http://porchlightinc.org/>, Assist with organizing and making gift baskets full of products made by Porchlight Products.
- River Food Pantry** (Madison) 608.442.8815, www.riverfoodpantry.org/donate.html, Help fill bags of food for families, run a food donation drive, help families shop for food.
- Salvation Army** (council wide) www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/volunteer, Varies by location. Please note that *Girl Scouts are not allowed to ring bells or collect funds when representing Girl Scouts.*
- Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry** (Prairie du Sac) 608.644.0504, Volunteer to help at the pantry or donate items. www.business.saukprairie.com/list/member/sauk-prairie-food-pantry-inc-1769
- Second Harvest Food Bank** (Madison) Pam Higham, 608.216.7214, volunteerservices@shfbmadison.org, Help sort, label, and package food for families
- St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and Stores** (Madison) 608.257.0919, www.svdpmadison.org
- Waunakee Neighborhood Connection** (Waunakee) 608.849.5740, www.waunakeeneighborhoodconnection.com Volunteer at their retail store and donate household goods.
- Tomah Food Pantry** (Tomah) 608.372.6737, www.nfnfoodpantry.org, Donate food and organize incoming food donations.

Children

- Box of Balloons** (Sun Prairie) 608.697.7809, www.boxofballoons.org, contact@boxofballoons.org, Providing birthday celebrations for children in need (cake mix, frosting, balloons, games, invites, tableware, candles, etc.)
- Family Resource Center** (Prairie du Chien) 608.357.2135, Provide child care for parents attending classes. www.crossingrivers.org/services/family-resources-and-childcare/family-resource-center.aspx
- Toys for Tots** (council wide) www.toysfortots.org, Collect or donate gently used toys.

Community Gardens/Farms

Good Greens Aquaponics (La Crosse) www.orcind.com, Help harvest the veggies growing on the water beds, help plant the seeds and feed the fish in the Aquaponic tanks.

Community Garden at Glacial Drumlin School (Madison)
www.facebook.com/CommunityGardenAtGlacialDrumlinSchool

CSA coalition (council wide) www.csacoalition.org/get-involved/volunteer

Kane Street Community Gardens (La Crosse) 608.386.3319, garden@lacrossehtf.org,
lacrossehtf.org/the-kane-street-community-garden/

Reap Food Group (Madison) www.reapfoodgroup.org/about/get-involved

Troy Community Gardens, Community Ground Works (Madison)
www.communitygroundworks.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities

Environmental/Outdoors

Janesville Rotary Botanical Gardens (Janesville) 608.754.1779, Help water and weed the flowers and plants.

UW Arboretum (Madison) 608.262.5604, www.arboretum.wisc.edu, judith.kingsbury@wisc.edu, Ecological restoration, gardening, growing plants, and helping at the visitor's center.

Zachariah's Acres (Oconomowoc) www.zachariahsacres.org, www.zachariahsacres.org/contact, Countless opportunities to contribute to the development of Zachariah's Acres.

Elderly

Arcadia Senior Living Home (Arcadia) 920.219.9517, info@arcadiaseniorliving.com

Bethany Lutheran Homes (La Crosse) Dana, 608.406.3982, DLMille1@gundersenhealth.org

Brookdale Madison North (Madison) 608.249.5558, jamie.kallenbach@brookdale.com

Home Instead Senior Care (council wide) 608.782.4000, www.homeinstead.com

Hyland Park of Sun Prairie (Sun Prairie) 608.834.2089, www.hylandparksunprairie.com

Ingleside Manors (Mount Horeb) Aimee Bohms, 608.437.5511, abhoms@carriagehealthcare.com

Oakwood Lutheran Senior Ministries (Madison) 608.230.4510, www.oakwoodvillage.net

Prairie Gardens Assisted Living (Sun Prairie) 608.825.4884, www.prairiegardensassistedliving.com

Sienna Crest Assisted Living www.siennacrest.com, Locations in Oregon, Darlington, Dodgeville, Fort Atkinson, Marshall, Mineral Point, Platteville and Waunakee.

Skaalen Home (Stoughton) Dawn Zaemisch 608.873.5651x 240, or Pam Parsons 608.873.5651 x215

St. Mary's Care Center (Madison) 608.845.1000, www.stmaryscarecenter.net

Spring Brook Assisted Living (Onalaska) Moriah Pleggenkuhle, 608.793.5122, www.springbrookassistedliving.com

Libraries/Literacy

Ruth Culver Library (Prairie du Sac) 608.643.8318, www.pdslibrary.org, Hold community events or help with kid's events.

Medical/Emotional Challenges

Case for Smiles (council wide) www.caseforsmiles.org,

Make pillowcases that are distributed to children in the local hospitals.

Gilda's Club (Madison) 608.828.8880, www.gildasclubmadison.org, program@gildasclubmadison.org, Variety of opportunities to help with a cancer support group (plant garden, cleaning, baking)

Matthew's Heart of Hope (council wide) 860.957.7086, www.matthewsheartsofhope.org, Make heart shaped pillows that are donated to children with a Congenital Heart Defect.

Ronald McDonald House (Madison) 608.232.4660, www.rmhcmadison.org, Start a pull tab campaign or cook a meal for the families that are staying there.

Veterans/Military

Host a donation drive to gather supplies for care packages to send to deployed troops.

Operation Ooh Rah (Council Wide, located in Beloit) 608.322.2664, www.operationoohrah.com, novalindy@gmail.com

Operation Gratitude (council wide) www.operationgratitude.com

Women/Family Issues

*If you are going to work with an organization that focuses on women's issues such as abuse intervention and violence education please speak with your Girl Scout's parents and obtain permission from them to discuss these topics.

Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (Madison) Liz Klaus 608.338.0077, elizabethk@abuseintervention.org, Collect and donate items on their wish list for women and children living in their shelter. Wish list can be found here: <http://abuseintervention.org/daiswishlist/>

New Horizons Shelter (La Crosse) Jen Klam, 608.791.2610

PAVE / People Against Violent Environments (Beaver Dam) Jessica Tiffany, 920.887.3810, jtiffany@pavedc.org, Help with yard work and planting flowers, assist with childcare on Thursday evenings, or collect and donate items on the wish list. Wish list can be found here: <http://www.peopleagainstavolentenvironment.com/donations>

Working with Individuals with Disabilities

Catholic Charities (council wide) www.catholiccharitiesusa.org, www.catholiccharitiesofmadison.org, www.cclse.org, Work with adults with developmental disabilities, elderly folks in senior center, and more.

Occupational Rehabilitation Center (La Crosse) 608.781.7727, www.orcind.com/lacrosse.html, Assist with sorting clothing for resale store. Work with individuals that have various disabilities.

Turning Community Service Ideas into Take Action Projects

Girls Scouts want to make a difference in the world—and have fun doing it. As a Girl Scout they are able to do just that when they go on a Girl Scout Journey or complete a badge. Take Action projects are built into the Girl Scout curriculum.

While working on badges, the girls get to take action by putting into use what they have learned. This can be shown by educating their family about what they have learned and getting them involved or by making small changes in their own life to make the world a better place. Take Action is usually introduced in steps 4 and 5 of the badges.

While working on a Girl Scout Journey a Girl Scout gets to Take Action when they:

- Identify a problem they want to do something about.
- Come up with a creative solution that will make a difference.
- Create a team plan to make that solution a reality.
- Put their plan into action.
- Talk about what they learned, and what they can't wait to do next!

Getting Started

Not sure how to get started on a Take Action project? Follow these simple steps in order to plan a meaningful Take Action project with girls.

Step 1: Take Action Project vs. Community Service Project

Before a troop discusses which needs in their community they'd like to address with a Take Action project it is important to know the difference between a community service project and a Take Action project. While some community service projects address the immediate needs in the community, they only help for a short period of time. Take Action projects are lasting service projects that make long-term, measurable change.

A Take Action Project should be:

Measurable—The success of the project can be determined based on the number of people the project helped, the number of people who were involved, any reduction in the community's need and other concrete numbers.

Sustainable—Girls should make arrangements to ensure that the project creates lasting change and is not a one-time event. Girls can do this by collaborating with community leaders and/or organizations, and building alliances with mentors.

Community service projects are an important way for Girl Scouts to serve their community. However, Take Action projects make a lasting difference in the community and give girls even more opportunities to make their world a better place!

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT	TAKE ACTION PROJECT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addresses an immediate need• Addresses a problem by working with or for a community partner• Makes community better for some people, right now• Contribution to the community is usually, but not always, measurable• Not usually long-lasting or continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addresses a need, immediate or not• Addresses the root cause of a problem by working with (not for) community partner(s)• Creates a lasting impact in the community• Contribution to the community is always measurable• Includes provisions to ensure sustainability long after girls' involvement in the project has ended

Step 2: Use community mapping to help choose the Take Action Project

A community map is a drawing or list that shows a community’s needs and resources, including contacts that might help girls when working on a Take Action project.

Have girls draw a picture of their community—include resources such as the library, animal shelters, parks department, and more.

Next have the girls think about issues or problems in their community. Suggest that girls ask their parents, watch the local news, or simply take a good look around their community. These issues or problems may be small or large. Some examples may include: an old or unsafe playground at the local park, many stray cats that don’t have a home, nothing for teens to do on the weekend, bullies at school, etc.

Make a list of the issues or problems the girls discovered in their community. Narrow this list to a few issues that the girls are interested in.

Research the issues further and discuss the resources girls can use to help them fill the community’s need.

Have girls choose their Take Action project

Important: One key to a successful Take Action project is to determine what the community needs are before creating the Take Action project. There is nothing worse than creating a project, then finding out that it was not needed.

Step 3: Plan and go for it

Sit down with girls and determine what steps need to be taken to complete their Take Action project. Discuss who will do each step of the project. Remember, this is a girl-led project, so step back as much as possible and only help when needed. Take time to write down each step and who is in charge, keep the project plan close at hand for easy reference. Look back to your list of community resources to see who may be able to help the group during the project.

Stuck at a certain step? Take a break and come back to it another day to see the project in a new way.

Step 4: Celebrate!

Once your project is complete, take time to celebrate. Plan a party or ceremony to talk about what the girls have achieved. Think about inviting community partners or family members. Your group may also want to post a video of your project on the council’s Facebook page or email your story to us at info@gsbadgerland.org

The benefits of Take Action projects go far beyond the reach of the project itself. Not only does the community see sustainable changes, girls will develop strong leadership skills that will help them throughout their lives. (As the community sees how girls are changing the world through Girl Scouts, they will want to get involved as volunteers, and may even want to serve as project advisors on other Take Action projects.)

Here are some great examples of how to turn a Community Service Project into a Take Action Project.

Issue	Community Service Project (one-time effort has short-term impact)	Take Action Project (long-term benefits and sustainable support)
Local food pantry needs help	Collect nonperishable food through a food drive at school	Collect food and also develop a recipe book of nutritious foods using simple ingredients — find local printing company to print several copies and give original to the food pantry to make more when needed.
Local animal shelter needs supplies and volunteers	Hold food and toy drive in community	Create a marketing campaign — posters, radio spots, flyers, etc. — encouraging community to donate supplies and time to the shelter. Hold drive. Give all marketing materials to the shelter for use in future drives.

Questions? Need more information?

Contact us

info@gsbadgerland.org | 800.236.2710