



Community Service Projects Ideas for Military Spouse Clubs

One important pillar for most Military Spouse Clubs is philanthropy. This initiative can be achieved through monetary and service efforts. Below is a list of ideas to help MSCs find creative ways to serve their local community:

Monthly Collections of Items

- Support a local organization by collecting donations of items at monthly MSC social
 - Solicit members for organizations they wish to support.
 - Contact organization in advance to learn mission and assess needs.
 - Educate MSC members on organization and provide list of donation needs.
 - Double check with MSC installation prior to solicitation of donations and/or funds from members to ensure legality; this is intended to be an internal donation drive within membership so in most cases it is not considered a fundraiser.
 - Offer a donation jar at monthly social for members how would prefer to donate money to go towards purchase of items; MSC member in charge to use funds towards items.

Examples:

- Local Women's Shelter
 - Possible needs: personal hygiene items, toilet paper, books, backpacks, items for children – diapers, toys, etc.
- No Kill Animal Shelter
 - Possible needs: dog toys, chew bones, dog brushes, cat scratching poles, etc.
- Food Pantry
 - Possible needs: non-perishable food items, i.e. canned goods, rice, flour, etc.
- Local Orphanage
 - Possible needs: books, toys, personal hygiene, clothing, holiday items (Halloween candy, holiday presents), etc.

Change for Change

- Collect members' extra change at monthly social events in support of an organization.
 - Provide jars on each table or have one big jar that a member solicits for donations.

Donate funds monthly or accumulate over time for designated organization or initiative.

Service Projects

- Plan quarterly Service Projects where club members get together and do something for the community (either on Base/Post or surrounding community); can be one of your Sub Clubs.

Ideas:

- Habitat for Humanity: members volunteer to serve on a work crew for a day or project
- Local Shelter: members can help serve meals on the weekend or when needed.
- Food Bank: help sort donations during the holidays and/or when needed.
- Animal Shelter: help with dog walking, caring for animals, cleaning, etc.
- English Classes: if living overseas, help lead English classes for host nation local community.
- Beach/Park/Neighborhood/Highway Clean Up: show visible support for your local community by wearing MSC shirts and cleaning neighborhood.
- Installation/Unit Support: learn needs of military units and volunteer to support i.e., offer childcare for pre-deployment briefs, feed service members meals, Cookie Drop at barracks, set up barracks with sheets/towels, snacks, comfort items for returning single servicemembers from deployment, etc.
- Local veterans' organization: learn needs for volunteers and support events/fundraisers.
- Local installation or community library: help reshelve books or lead story time or special interest groups.

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