

Community Service During COVID: Ideas for Rotary & Rotaract Clubs

1. **Blood Drive:** Participate in a local blood drive (have Rotarians give blood and/or help to promote an upcoming drive in your community; take and post photos, all of socially distanced participants).
2. **Food Drive/Distribution:**
 - a. Obtain a list of food needed by your local food bank and attach the list to paper bags. Distribute the bags to club members. Members leave the bags for neighbors & friends, then pick up the filled bags and take them to the food bank.
 - b. Arrange with local food banks or distribution centers to package/distribute food and supplies. Masks and distancing can be maintained.
 - c. Create a food pantry support fund and challenge your community to match it.
3. **Help Local Teachers/Students:**
 - a. Work with a local school to determine what students and families need and how your club can help, especially to support students learning from home.
 - b. Adopt a Teacher: Partner with a local teacher to support them and their class throughout the year with projects and supplies identified by the teacher.
 - c. Volunteer at a local school to read to children either virtually or in the classroom when safe, and/or tutor children in reading.
 - d. Have members video themselves reading children's books and post through your club's social media and websites for parents to share with their children as an alternative to TV during school closures.
4. **Masks:** Make masks at home (patterns available online) and put them in bags with a Rotary sticker to give to workers and/or community members.
5. **Meals for Essential Workers:** Partner with local restaurants/stores to purchase meals for essential workers and/or community members in need.
6. **Care Home Connections:** Coordinate with local hospitals or nursing homes for members to send cards or letters to people confined to hospital or care homes (to combat loneliness from isolation in facilities that have limited visitors).
7. **Community Clean-ups (with masks & social distancing):**
 - a. Adopt a roadway or median and tend it one or two Rotarians at a time.
 - b. Clean up a local park, beach, open space, or neighborhood.
 - c. Volunteer to do trail maintenance at local hiking trails.
8. **Drive-By Celebrations:** Create a "drive by" celebration for a child or shut in or other milestone events.

9. **Drive-In Movies:** Host a drive in movie event for local families (charge a small fee per car to offset expenses).
10. **Community Webinars:** Hold a town hall webinar or other on line seminar on a topic of interest to your community
11. **Gift Card Drive:** Ask members and others to purchase gift cards and mail them with a note from the Rotarian to organizations that would be able to put them to good use. Consider supporting local small businesses.
12. **Virtual Shows:** Host a virtual talent show, karaoke contest, art show, concert, or similar and charge an entry fee with the proceeds to benefit for one or more community organizations or Rotary causes.
13. **Blanket Making:** Ask members and others to make blankets for local foster or shelter children or to donate to "My Very Own Blanket" or similar organization.
<http://www.myveryownblanket.org/>
14. **Highlight Local Community Organizations:** Choose a local community organization or charity and ask all members to highlight it using their social media channels. Choose a new charity each week. (This is a great way to leverage the influence of Rotarian leaders to elevate causes that matter to your local community and it might even sprout a future project collaboration -- and/or a new member!)
15. **Home Improvement Projects:**
 - a. Partner with a local organization that serves people in need to identify homes that need exterior clean up or improvement and the residents cannot afford to make the improvements themselves, such as building a ramp for a person with disabilities.
 - b. Chop/haul wood for those in the community who use it for winter heat.
16. **Little Free Libraries:** Build and install little libraries throughout your communities to promote literacy, service, and community. More information: <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>
17. **Little Free Pantries:** Build and install Little Free Pantries to help people who are food insecure. More information: <https://www.littlefreepantry.org/>
18. **Delivery Service for At-Risk Individuals:** Organize a free delivery service for people in need to run errands, deliver groceries and/or medications and other supplies.
19. **Award Programs:** Conduct a virtual awards program for first responders, health care workers, teachers, students, or others for their work during COVID.
20. **Virtual Pumpkin Carving Contest:** Conduct a virtual pumpkin contest for kids and adults with voting and prizes.
21. **Holiday Support:** Partner with other community organizations that serve families-in-need to provide Christmas presents and/or holiday meals for families and children.

22. **Laundry Assistance:** Partner with local laundromats to sponsor families who need assistance with affording laundry money.
23. **Baby Gear Give-away:** Conduct a community baby gear drive for gently used baby/child clothes, toys, books, and equipment. Partner with local service providers and shelters to distribute the gear to families in need.

Club Service Ideas During COVID

1. **Joint Club Meetings:** Connect with other clubs throughout the world that are meeting virtually at the same time as your club and organize a joint club meeting.
2. **Virtual Greeters:** Assign a member or two to be a virtual greeter at every virtual meeting to greet and welcome every member and especially visitors at every meeting, just like we do at in-person meetings. Make everyone feel special.
3. **Club Ambassadors:** Assign members as Club Ambassadors to make visitors feel welcome and help them understand how the club and Rotary operate. For virtual meetings, Ambassadors can welcome and introduce visitors and use the Zoom Chat function to explain things during the meeting.
4. **Rotary Buddies:** Identify members who are not attending your virtual meetings and pair them up with a Rotary Buddy (another member in the club). The Buddy checks with the member each week to encourage them to attend the next meeting and make sure they are ok and informed about club activities.
5. **Games/Contests at Meetings for Fun!**
 - a. Who Said That or Trivia: Use the polling feature in Zoom to present quotes and multiple-choice answers for members to select who said the quote.
 - b. Do a Joke-of-the-Week contest between two members and have members vote on the best one using the Zoom polling feature. The winner plays against a different member the following week.
 - c. Use electronic raffle wheel for drawings and contests.
6. **Zoom Breakouts:** Use Zoom breakout rooms for members to gather in small groups before the meeting to socialize.