

# Member Engagement: In-Meeting Projects and More Fun



In-meeting service projects are a great way to increase member engagement. When planning your service projects, consider:

1. **Budget:** Are there any costs associated with these projects?
2. **Timing:** Projects must be short and achievable in your meeting timeframe.
3. **Hands-on-Deck:** Will members all have a role in the project? Is there enough to do to allow for everyone to participate?
4. **Beneficiaries:** Who will receive your completed projects? How will the items get to their intended destination?
5. **Clean-up:** Be sure to allow for clean-up time, or ask a few to stay later. Bring your own trash bags so as to not overwhelm your venue.
6. **Set-up:** How will you transition from your meal to the project (ie: clean off work space, set up the project, etc.)?
7. **Invite guests:** Project meetings are the perfect time to invite potential members!

## Some Projects to Consider

**Club Service Day:** Update all of your banners with new flags, Paul Harris names, personal recognition, website bios, and club-based items.

**9/11 Service:** Skip a meeting and deliver breakfast, lunch, and dinner to your community first responders on September 11th.

**Safety Kits:** Build safety kits to highlight trick-or-treating safety. Deliver them to the police and elementary schools for Halloween.

**Sox for Vets:** Many clubs collect socks for veterans. Build your club's collection boxes and let members get creative!



# Wicked Fun In-Meeting Service Projects

**Holiday Cookies:** Ask all members to bring in 2 dozen cookies. Have members separate and vary the cookies into appropriate portions, label with a sticker and deliver to Elder Services.

**Warm Kits:** Create a packing line and stuff resealable bags with items to keep homeless people warm in the winter including lip balm, hats, gloves, socks, mylar blankets, dental supplies, and more. Deliver to your local shelter.



**Party Bags:** Many clubs donate food items to the food pantry, but what do food pantry clients do when they want to celebrate a special occasion? Decorate and pack birthday party bags complete with table cloths, party supplies, cake mix, candles and frosting!

**Project Linus:** Pre-cut fabric for no-sew blankies and let your members tie the knots. Deliver to your local Emergency Room or contact Project Linus to find your local chapter.

**Happy Birthday:** Celebrate your club's birthday with a food drive. Ask members to bring in an item. Use the time to package and sort the items by category and deliver to your local food pantry.

**Bathroom Kits:** Similar to the warm kits, pack bathroom and toiletry supplies for

local shelters including hygiene products, flip-flops, soaps, and shampoo.

**Paracords:** Learn and teach members how to make paracord bracelets and deliver them to your local Veterans Services Agent.

**Herb/Veggie Starter Kits:** Ask members to bring in 1 packet of seeds for their favorite herb or vegetable. Members can decorate 4"-6" clay pots with acrylic paint (it dries fast) and seal with Modge Podge. Deliver the seed starter kits with potting soil to a local summer camp and have the kids plant their own gardens.

# Wicked Fun In-Meeting Service Projects

## Projects to Consider

**Project Labels:** Does your club do a dictionary project? How about a book donation? Use club time to place book plates on the inside covers

**Valentines for Troops:** Bring in markers, stickers, stamps and all kinds of art supplies. Ask members to personally create a Valentine for our active duty service men and women with a personal note. Don't forget the envelope and "Made with love by Rotary" sticker to seal it! Send them by mail to [HugsforSoldiers.org](http://HugsforSoldiers.org).



**Home-Made Soup:** Ask members to bring in the recipe and ingredients to make a home-made soup (including the fresh vegetables). Pack them neatly and deliver to the Senior Center or Food Pantry for their clients to take home that day.

**3 Cheers:** Make hand-made signs supporting your town's upcoming event, Special Olympics, Relay for Life, road race, etc.

## Ramp Up the Fun

Ramp up the fun in your club by hiring or inviting a speaker to teach the members a new skill or talent such as:

- balloon animals
- magic or coin tricks
- a foreign language primer
- cupcake decorating
- soap making
- ancestry investigating
- how to get published
- cooking healthier
- basic car maintenance
- extreme couponing
- paranormal research
- upcycle household items

## Got More Ideas?

Send your ideas to Amy Luckiewicz at [rotary7930publicimage@yahoo.com](mailto:rotary7930publicimage@yahoo.com).