



How to Plan a Group Serve Project

Why Plan a Group Serve Project? The simple answer; that's the example Jesus set for us. The longer answer; serving as a group creates a moment for your group to not just talk about being the church, but live it out. Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Serving as a group is less about fulfilling an obligation or even about helping other people. Serving is more about who God is shaping you and your group to be.

How Do We Plan a Group Serve Project? Start with the question, "Who do we know that has a need?" This could be a family member, friend, or neighbor, or it could be an organization in your community. Once a need has been identified, the next question is, "How can we help?" Your group could do yard work, serve meals, move items, paint, spend time with people, and the list could go on. Also, your group could pool resources to provide a gift, groceries, clothes, appliances, or pay bills for someone in need. The sky's the limit, but it all begins with those two simple questions. From there, let the need lead...

Finalize Your Plan: The next step is to finalize your plan (when and where does our group need to be?, who is bringing what?, what are we supposed to do?, etc...). As the group leader, this is a great opportunity to delegate. Encourage a group member to research, finalize, and communicate the details of your Serve project with the group.

Serve Together: Once everything is in motion, it's time to serve. Remember to serve relationally. Encourage and be with those you are serving or send them an encouraging note or message. Be ready to share why your group is serving (Jesus). Love well!

Capture the Moment & Share the Story: If it fits the serve project, take a photo or video of your group serving. Next, write out and submit your story through the Groups That Serve webpage. We can't wait to hear your story and celebrate what God is doing through your group!

Debrief: At your next group meeting, discuss what encouraged or challenged you for the experience. Have a conversation on what next steps toward a lifestyle of serving would look like as a group or individually.

Need Serve Project Ideas or More Guidance? Reach out to our Local Outreach Minister Caroline Krouse at ckrouse@mynorthside.com.