



Key Messages

- Next month, the nation will mark the 12th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. We encourage you to honor those who were lost and those who responded in service in response by participating in the [September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance](#).
- We will never forget that tragic day. The innocent lives lost, the bravery of those who responded, and the remarkable spirit of unity and compassion that swept the country in the aftermath.
- The anniversary of September 11 is a day of history, emotion, and reflection for most Americans. Over the last ten years, this day has also come to symbolize the resilience, kindness, and unity of the American people.

Background on the National Day of Service and Remembrance

- Beginning in 2002, family members who lost loved ones in the 9/11 attacks began to seek a forward-looking tribute to honor the sacrifice of those lost and pay tribute to those who rose up in service. They believed that engaging in service on the 9/11 anniversary was a productive and respectful way to honor those who died and create a legacy of compassion and action to help meet the challenges we face today.
- Thanks to the leadership of the families, the bipartisan 2009 Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act designated the day as the [September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance](#), and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) with supporting this effort across the country. Every year, CNCS works with MyGoodDeed and hundreds of other organizations across the country to make the anniversary of 9/11 a lasting tribute.
- In 2011, the President asked Americans to remember the lives of those lost, pay tribute to those who rose up in service, and honor those who serve our country today by engaging in service on the 9/11 weekend. We are calling on organizations of all kinds – nonprofit and national service, community and faith-based, educational and business – to heed that call and organize or participate in service and remembrance activities.
- As the President said in a 2011 [weekly address](#), “There are so many ways to get involved, and every American can do something. Even the smallest act of service, the simplest act of kindness, is a way to honor those we lost; a way to reclaim that spirit of unity that followed 9/11.”



Opportunities to Unite in Service in 2013

- This year, Americans of all ages and backgrounds will serve in their communities in honor of 9/11. Projects will range from food drives and home repairs to neighborhood cleanups and disaster preparation activities. In many areas, volunteers will honor veterans, soldiers, or first responders by collecting donations, assembling care packages, and writing thank you letters.
- We know that many of you are also planning to host an event, and we strongly encourage you to post your opportunity at Serve.gov. Doing so will bring attention to your project and connect you to the many others seeking to give back on a day that has already tied so many of us together.
- With the combined efforts of individuals and organizations across the country, we will remember the solemn occasion of September 11 by uniting Americans in a renewed commitment to service.

What Organizations Can Do

- Post your volunteer opportunities on Serve.gov.
- Organize your own service project using one of our [toolkits](#).
- Follow [Serve.gov on Twitter](#) and use the "#911day" and "#IWill" hashtags in your tweets.
- [Place a September 11th banner](#) on your website or blog.

What Individuals Can Do

- Find a September 11th volunteer opportunity near you by visiting Serve.gov.
- Share your story of service on the [Serve.gov Facebook page](#).
- Describe a good deed or charitable activity to honor 9/11 victims, survivors and those that rose in service in response to the attacks at the "[I Will: the 9/11 Tribute Movement](#)".