



Freedom Car Wash

What We're Doing

We're raising \$911,000 nationally for local emergency service departments during the yearlong Seasons of Hope campaign.

Why We're Doing It

We want to honor local fire, police and rescue personnel.

How It Works

You arrange a time and a place to wash emergency vehicles and accept donations to pass along to your local fire, police and EMS departments.

Start It Up

1. Register your project with Champions of Hope online at www.championsofhope.org.
2. Recruit your friends, family and classmates for your team; share the Freedom Car Wash message.
3. Make a timeline of everything you need to do.
4. Get the help of an adult mentor from your local fire, police or emergency medical service departments, or from your school.
5. Ask your mentor to help find a place for the event, such as a gas station or parking lot. You'll need enough space for the vehicles and a supply of running water. Keep in mind that the visibility of a busy street means more donations.
6. Contact the local emergency services community and encourage them to advertise within their departments. Your mentor can help.
7. Contact the media before the event. Encourage them to cover the event. It'll make a great photo opportunity, after all. (Go to the Resources page at www.championsofhope.org to download a sample press release.)
8. Have a "Plan B" in case of bad weather.

All You'll Need

- 2 or 3 hoses with nozzles
- Drying towels – as many as you can borrow
- Several large buckets
- Sponges and rags
- Scrub brushes for tires
- Car cleaning solution (dishwashing liquid is too harsh)
- Poster board
- Markers
- American flags
- Cash box
- Sunscreen

Get the Word Out

1. Put up posters and hand out flyers.
2. Include day, times and place.
3. Explain that you're part of Champions of Hope's Seasons of Hope.
4. Describe your group and why the event is so important.
5. Explain how the event works.

The Day Before the Event

1. Make a list of all your recruits, along with their shifts and the supplies they will bring.
2. Remind everyone where to show up, their shift time and supplies they are bringing.
3. Consider bringing food for your recruits. You will work up an appetite washing cars. A snack might keep everyone going strong.

The Day of Freedom Car Wash

1. Call the team together for a quick meeting. Remind them why what they are doing is important. Make sure that everyone knows what to do.
2. Assign someone to hang posters on walls and sign poles at the location and in the surrounding neighborhood.
3. Assign a traffic pattern director to show cars where to enter to coordinate the order that you'll wash them.
4. Assign a donation collector to stand near the exit and thank participants as he or she collects donations.
5. Assign team members to hold signs that promote the event. They should stand in high-traffic areas near the location.
6. Assign groups of washers, breaking down duties to:
 - Hosing down the cars
 - Soaping the cars
 - Scrubbing wheels and tires
 - Rinsing
 - Towel-drying

7. Assign someone to quality control to ensure a thorough, efficient job. Make sure the groups motion the car to move forward after each step.
8. Set up by filling the buckets with soapy water, attaching hoses to spigots, and by making sure there are enough sponges, rags, squeegees and drying towels.

More Scrubbing Tips

1. Replace the soap and dirty water in the buckets.
2. Count the money regularly to let everyone know how much you have collected. Encourage your workforce to keep up the good work.
3. When volunteers join the effort or relieve other volunteers, make sure they understand their assignments. Remember to thank volunteers who have to leave early.

When You're Done

1. Count the donations.
2. Have an adult check the total.
3. Tell everyone how much money they've raised. Celebrate your accomplishment and congratulate everyone for making a difference.
4. Present your earnings to the police, fire or other emergency service departments you have selected.
5. Type "Freedom Car Wash" on the subject line and email Champions of Hope at oneteam@championsofhope.org. (We want to add it to the Freedom Car Wash total and share your success story on our Web site.)
6. Include how much money you raised, names of team members who participated, where you held the project and a contact name with phone number.