



The Freedom Project

Weekly Reader and Champions of Hope will encourage schools across America to organize volunteer projects called "Freedom Projects" to honor the brave men and women in our military. Schools will perform service projects:

1. To let the military know America's children appreciate their sacrifice.
2. To turn their appreciation into action and strengthen America.
3. To teach young people that what they do makes a difference.

All You'll Need

- Poster board
- Markers
- Boxes for food donations
- Yellow ribbons

Freedom Harvest

Weekly Reader and Champions of Hope will encourage schools to hold food drives for the hungry. With the down economy, many people don't have enough to eat. Encourage students to bring in food. Put a yellow ribbon around collection box to remind students of the troops.

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 Harvest message.
3. Make a timeline of everything you need to do.
4. Get the help of an adult mentor. This could be a teacher, school administrator, parent or other trusted community member.
5. Ask your mentor to help spread the word to others in the community, including local radio, television and newspapers.
6. Consider contacting civic volunteer groups (Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis, Junior League, etc.) to help with the fundraising.
7. Contact local food shelves and churches to coordinate with similar drives.
10. Contact the media before the event. Encourage them to cover the event. It'll make a great photo opportunity, after all. Go to the Spirit of America front page for our Public Relations Tip Sheet.
11. Have a "Plan B" in case of bad weather.

How It Works

Pick a day and a collection point, then ask your friends, neighbors and classmates to show up with canned food. Enlist the help of social and religious groups. Or, ask local grocery stores to contribute.

Get the Word Out

1. Put up posters and hand out flyers.
2. Include day, time and place of the event.
3. Explain that you're part of Weekly Reader and Champions 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, shift times and supplies.

The Day of Freedom Harvest

1. Call the team members together for a quick meeting. Remind them why what they are doing is important. Make sure that everyone knows what to do.
2. Tell them when you want the project to end and when you'll meet to count the donations
3. Distribute necessary supplies.
4. When new volunteers join the effort or relieve others, make sure that they understand their new job assignment. Don't forget to thank volunteers who have to leave early.
5. Make sure that participants thank each person who contributes to this cause.

When You're Done

1. Clean up the Freedom Lives site. Return all extra supplies.
2. Collect and count the number of boxes you've filled.
3. Tell everyone how much food they have collected. Celebrate your accomplishment and congratulate everyone for making a difference.
4. Present the donations to your local charity organization.
5. Tell the media about your success.
6. Type "Freedom Harvest" on the subject line and email oneteam@championsofhope.org. We want to add it to the Freedom Harvest total and share your success story on our Web site and with the military families and troops.