



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.

Freedom Saves

Weekly Reader and Champions of Hope will encourage students to hold community car washes to benefit local police, fire and emergency workers. Our local heroes keep our communities safe and secure just like our troops are keeping our nation safe and secure. We will encourage students to wear yellow ribbons and give one to each customer.

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 Saves 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 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 Spirit of America front page for our Public Relations Tip Sheet.
8. Have a "Plan B" in case of bad weather.

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.

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.

All You'll Need

- 2 or 3 hoses with nozzles
- Drying towels
- Buckets, sponges and rags
- Scrub brushes for tires
- Car cleaning solution (dishwashing liquid is too harsh)
- Poster board
- Markers
- American flags
- Cash box
- Sunscreen
- Yellow ribbons for participants and customers

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.
3. Consider bringing food for your recruits. You will work up an appetite washing cars. Snacks may keep you going strong.

The Day of Freedom Saves

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.

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 Saves" on the subject line and email Champions of Hope at oneteam@championsofhope.org. We want to add it to the Freedom Saves total and share your success story on our Web site and with military families and troops overseas.