

## DEAR TEACHER,

September 11 has been established as a National Day of Service and Remembrance to commemorate the feelings of hope, unity, and compassion that surfaced as people across the country came together to help each other after the 9/11 tragedies. In honor of this day, inspire your students to think about good deeds they can do to help those around them—on a personal level and as part of a team. Use the enclosed activities to launch class discussions and generate ideas for service-learning projects your class may participate in as a group.

The September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance was established by Congress in 2009 to honor the memory of those who were lost and those who united in response to the tragedy. This year Americans will pay tribute to the 9/11 victims and heroes by joining together in service to meet community needs. The September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance is supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that engages Americans in service, and MyGoodDeed, which annually organizes the 9/11 “I Will” campaign.

### **Lesson for Grades 3–5**

Discuss 9/11 with your students and the sense of unity that developed as a result of the tragic events of that day. Distribute and review the student worksheet with your class. Explain that service means assisting or helping people or groups in need—or doing good deeds. In Part A of the worksheet, students brainstorm three things they can do on 9/11 and every day to help their family, friends, or community (e.g., help a younger sibling with homework, volunteer to do chores at home, volunteer to help the teacher clean up the classroom, etc.). In Part B, students are challenged to think about a group their class or family could help and explain why. Students might work with a partner to complete this page. (Remind students to check with their parents before helping others outside their family.) Ask students to present their ideas and to consider turning one or more of the students’ concepts into a class service-learning project.

### **Lesson for Grades 6–8**

Distribute the worksheet to students and ask students what service means to them. In Part A of the activity, students brainstorm three to five things they can do to help others. In Part B, students should work in teams to research groups or organizations the class could help and activities they could adopt as a service-learning project. Students are challenged to describe who, what, where, when, why, and how they can help. Have the teams present their ideas and then choose one or more of their ideas to engage the class in a service-learning project.

### **Lesson Plans and Resources**

For additional talking points, project ideas, tools, and free materials to help you engage your class in a service-learning project, visit the websites below:

- [www.scholastic.com/911day](http://www.scholastic.com/911day)
- [www.911day.org](http://www.911day.org)
- [www.serve.gov/sept11.asp](http://www.serve.gov/sept11.asp)
- [www.nationalservice.gov/pubs](http://www.nationalservice.gov/pubs)