



YALE DAY OF SERVICE

Yale Day of Service, Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Yale Day of Service?

Yale Day of Service is an annual program that encourages all members of the Yale community (local, national, global) to come together in serving their local communities. Most years there are approximately 250 service projects, called “sites” worldwide with about 3,500 volunteers.

The 12th global Yale Day of Service will take place on May 9, 2020. However, the Day of Service can also serve as a catalyst for ongoing service by alumni and local Yale clubs, and may take place on any day that in the spring that works best for the community.

What is the role of the local Yale clubs in the Yale Day of Service?

Your local Yale club can often serve as the foundation of the Yale Day of Service (YDoS). When this project was piloted in the Connecticut Yale Clubs in 2008, it was overwhelmingly successful. Perhaps one of the most interesting outcomes was the way in which it appealed to so many alumni who had never before participated in Yale activities. We believe that this program can help to bring new energy to local Yale clubs by attracting alumni who have not previously been engaged with Yale or their local Yale Clubs. Local club leaders should also recruit new alumni volunteers as part of the YDoS planning process, in an effort to develop additional volunteer leadership for your club.

Our club already does service activities. Why should we participate in the Yale Day of Service?

We recognize that some clubs are already engaged in service activities. In many cases, these activities attract younger alumni or those who perhaps do not participate in more traditional club activities. The Yale Day of Service is an opportunity for those clubs to take their service outreach to a higher level, to reach a broader Yale volunteer audience, and to engage new alumni volunteers through the local service planning efforts. It can provide the opportunity to partner with new community service sites or expand the scope of the involvement with groups where you already provide service.

Perhaps most importantly, the Yale Day of Service provides the opportunity to participate in an historic day as we collectively embody Yale’s great tradition of service to others.

How will local clubs manage and implement the Yale Day of Service?

We recognize that a project of this scope cannot just be added to the list of responsibilities for clubs. We have a strong volunteer structure supporting the program led by the Co-Chairs and a

cadre of Regional Directors who will support clubs in implementing the Yale Day of Service. Regional Directors can also assist in finding local service projects, and placing volunteers.

You can find the contact information for the Chair, Regional Directors and YAA staff by yaledayofservice.org/contact-us.

What are some considerations in selecting our service site or sites?

YAA staff and the Day of Service Regional Directors are happy to consult with you as you consider potential sites for the Yale Day of Service. Aspects to consider include:

- **Location.** Is the site easy to get to; will volunteers need a car or can they use public transportation; will you be able to recruit enough volunteers to complete the project?
- **Age Appropriateness.** There is great interest in family friendly sites so ask about age restrictions and other limitations.
- **Service Population.** Who will benefit from the service project.
- **Estimated Enrollment.** Approximately how many volunteers do you expect to participate.
- **Range of Activities.** Are there limitations on who can complete the work requirements? Are there jobs for people of all ages and abilities?
- **Building Community.** Look at sites that accept a minimum of 5 volunteers to promote the opportunity for Yale community among the participants.
- **Logistics.** Can people easily access the site or are there special transportation/parking requirements? Is the project dependent on clear weather or is there a rain-date alternative?

What if we cannot do the Yale Day of Service on Saturday, May 9, 2020?

While we encourage Yale clubs and associations to plan their YDoS activities for the "official" day of service, we recognize that this might not always be possible due to local considerations or the nature of the volunteer project which may need to take place during the work week. We hope that these clubs will plan their YDoS activities at a time that is fitting for the volunteers and the organization.

How will the Yale Day of Service be promoted?

The YAA will be promoting the Yale Day of Service to all alumni, but no communications are more effective than those coming from YOU.

Volunteer recruitment will be most successful when you or a member of your committee promote your Yale Day of Service project to members of your local Yale community. Send personal emails, use photos from the service site (with proper permissions), blast via social media, text, call, and local media outlets.

Your club leadership likely has communication mechanisms that you can work with to get the word out. If you do not have a functioning local club in your community, contact your Regional Director who can get alumni lists for your area for direct Day of Service outreach).

How will the Yale Day of Service volunteer registration process work?

YAA manages a central Yale Day of Service website, yaledayofservice.org, which is where site coordinators register projects, and where volunteers register to participate in those projects.

Site registration will open in early February. When registering their project, coordinators provide details about who, what, when, where, and how, as well as the contact information for the project coordinator.

Once the majority of sites are registered, the YAA opens individual volunteer registration in March. Site coordinators then contact the volunteers who have signed up for their service project with additional details and contact information.

What if we want to add additional sites for our Day of Service?

While we would prefer to have all information confirmed before volunteer registration goes live, we recognize that some clubs may need to add sites as their registrations grow or circumstances change.

It is best to consult with your Regional Director and/or the YAA staff if you think you may encounter this situation.

This sounds great! So what are the next steps?

First, let us know that you plan on participating. The Regional Director for your area will get in touch with the club president or other volunteer you designate to discuss your involvement and topics such as projected participation levels and site selection. He or she will provide you with a timeline and will plan for regular calls or other communication to help you as you build your Yale Day of Service activities.

Next, you need to identify and recruit a local chair or chairs for the event. If possible, recruit members for a planning committee to work on items such as site selection, promotion, participant recruitment, and the post-project group gathering.

Who should we contact with questions about the Yale Day of Service?

Contact your regional director or YAA staff person Mara Balk, mara.balk@yale.edu; 203-436-8820.

We hope you will join us on Saturday, May 9, 2020!