



March 2019

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is Serve the City?

Serve the City is a church-wide community outreach event that will give us the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our city. Hundreds of TRBC members will go out into our community and show the love of Christ in real and tangible ways. TRBC small groups will choose a project of their own that everyone can do together as a group one day during the Serve the City week, so there will be many ways to get involved.

What is the goal of Serve the City?

The goal of Serve the City is NOT to check off your "serve" box for the year. Instead, the goal is to spend 1 day of the year serving others in Jesus' name in order to fuel serving during the other 364 days. Our hope is that we will begin future community partnerships that will flow out of Serve the City where small groups can continue serving at during other times of the year.

When is Serve the City?

Serve the City will be happening the first week of **March (3/2 -3/9)**. Rather than having just one day to serve, we wanted to open it up for the week to give groups more flexibility in scheduling a project.

Can children and youth participate in Serve the City?

We are encouraging families with children to serve together if possible. If your small group has families with school-age or older children, we encourage you to plan a project that could be done together as a family. In addition to adult small group project, some youth small groups may also plan their own project.

How do we plan a Serve the City project?

Get creative! Assess people and their needs in your neighborhood and around the community. Perhaps there is a widow, single mother, or elderly person that could be assisted by painting their house, cutting grass, or cleaning up the yard. Firefighters, police officers, schools, nursing home residents, assisted living homes, and local business owners are all great people to reach out to and find a way to serve! Check out our list of Project Ideas at the end of this document for ways to get involved.

What should I wear on Serve the City Day?

If you have a Serve the City shirt from the last 2 years, then it would be great to wear that. If you do not have one, it's no problem, just wear an appropriate t-shirt. Other than your Serve the City shirt or other t-shirt, please dress appropriate for the project that you are completing. But also remember you are representing TRBC and God, so dress accordingly.

Who pays the costs associated with our small group's Serve the City project?

Each small group is responsible for all of the supplies and costs associated with their project. Spend time determining the scope of your project and plan work based on your group size and commitment level.

I want to participate in Serve the City but I am not in a small group. How do I find a small group?

Our small groups are open to new members throughout the year. Our Small Groups Directory can help you find a group that fits your life stage, interests, and time preference. Learn more about small groups at <http://www.thomasvilleroad.org/ministries/info/bible-study>.

Should I communicate to the church which Serve the City project our group is planning?

Yes, we definitely need to know about the project your group is planning. This will give us an idea of the types of projects being done as well as assist in connecting individuals to your group who may be looking for a place to serve. You can register your group's project online at www.thomasvilleroad.org/servethecity or at the Serve the City table in the worship lobby.

Will there be Serve the City projects available for those NOT in a small group?

Yes, there will be several open projects that have room for others to help out. Many of the small groups are open for you to join them on their project. To find an open project, stop by the Serve the City table in the Worship Lobby to see the current list of projects. Find a project that interests you and contact the leader for questions and details. You may also indicate your need to find a project by registering yourself as an individual participant at www.thomasvilleroad.org/servethecity.

Do I need to register as an individual participant if I am serving with my small group?

No. We do not need individuals to register who already have a project. We only need individuals to register if they need help connecting to a small group project.

Who can I contact with questions or concerns?

Email Josh Blight at joshblight@thomasvilleroad.org or Steve Vaughan at stevevaughan@thomasvilleroad.org.

#ServeTheCityTLH

Project Ideas

We have several projects already in progress that small groups and/or individuals can join. You may request to adopt one of these projects when you register your small group for Serve the City day:

- Walk 4 Life (to support A Woman's Pregnancy Center), March 9
- Harvest of Life Pancake Breakfast/Silent Auction Part of the M.A.D. Dash 5k and fun run, March 23 (We realize that this event is outside of Serve the City week but we want to encourage you to know that this is a serve the city option.)
- Oak Ridge Elementary School (plans TBD)
- Florida Baptist Children's Home (specific plans TBD)
- Feeding Homeless at Lake Ella

For other project ideas, view the following with your small group to brainstorm how your group might serve...

Begin by asking your small group members the following questions. Hopefully, the answers will help you develop a project that is a perfect fit for your group.

- What project types best suit your group's ages and abilities? (prayer, worship, teaching, physical labor, etc.)
- What business or organization within your sphere of influence could use a blessing?
- Who in your neighborhood has a need?

General Ideas

- Host a free garage sale
- Bring free lunches to construction workers and servicemen in your area
- Clean up a widow's or single mom's yard
- Give out free sunscreen at a city park
- Give out free bottled water at a community park
- Give out free donuts and coffee at bus stop or shopping center
- Host a free car wash for the faculty
- Minor car repairs for elderly, widows and/or single moms
- Kids host a free kids toys and games garage sale
- Kids host a free lemonade stand
- Offer to do free yard work for a neighbor in need

Nursing Homes/Assisted Living Facilities

- Deliver fresh flowers or care packages to the residents
- Host a worship service at a nursing home (offer worship, devotions, prayer, and fellowship)
- Landscape a flower garden and sitting area for residents
- Have kids make crafts (necklaces, wooden crosses) that can be given to residents
- Distribute chips and sodas to residents & employees (check with staff on food restrictions)
- Host a Tea Party
- Help the residents complete care packages for foster kids

Schools/Colleges

- Serve free drinks or snacks at their sports/band practices
- Give away free mechanical pencils or energy drinks to college students
- Host a free picnic in the quad
- Give out free donuts and coffee on the quad
- Help do yardwork or deep cleaning at a local public school

Special Needs/Youth Home

- Identify a family with a child with special needs and give the family a Mom & Dad's day out
- Adopt a group home for the day and throw a party for the residents
- Build a wheelchair ramp for handicapped
- Organize a field day for a group youth home

Street Outreach

- Serve hot breakfast for the homeless in your community
- Do a community trash clean up
- Host a Block Party at a community park with free food, games, music, etc. for families and children
- Renovate a run-down playground or park in the area
- Do a door-to-door grocery giveaway in a low-income neighborhood
- Have a "Free Grass Cutting" day

Hospitals

- Serve free coffee, energy drinks, and snacks to staff and those waiting in the emergency room
- Give out healthy snacks to patients of chemotherapy
- Deliver small gifts to patients and families in the children's ward (toys, care packages, etc.)
- Have prayer visits with patients and those in emergency rooms
- Take care-packages with snacks, sweets and small gift items (lotions, magazines, puzzles etc.) to families of hospitalized children

Business/Service Organizations/Public Servicemen

- Wash windows
- Trash pick-up in parking lot
- Coral shopping carts to designated spaces
- Cook lunch for your local police or fire station

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