



## GUIDELINES

### First Lady Maria Lee's Tennessee Kids Serve Summer Challenge

#### WHAT?

First Lady Maria Lee invites all Tennessee elementary students (grades: rising K – 6<sup>th</sup>) to participate in the statewide Tennessee Kids Serve Summer Challenge. The purpose of this challenge is to instill in kids a heart for service at a young age and ask them to join the first lady in devoting a small portion of their summer break to serving others.

In light of COVID-19, this year's challenge guidelines have been updated to recognize the extenuating circumstances for both participating families and available service opportunities. Now more than ever, it is crucial that we continue to care for and serve one another in safe, meaningful ways.

The challenge will start on **Monday, June 1**, and conclude on **Saturday, August 1**.

#### HOW?

The 2020 Tennessee Kids Serve Summer Challenge will include eight service categories from which kids are encouraged to select a service project. **To complete the challenge, a child must complete a service activity from at least *four* of the 8 categories.** Suggestions are provided for each category, but participants are not required to select a project from the given list in order to complete the category. Creativity is highly encouraged!

Each week, First Lady Maria Lee will highlight a service category on social media. Kids can follow along and complete an activity from the category she focuses on each week, or they can complete each category in the order and timeframe that works best for the child and family.

Upon registering for the challenge, families will receive additional information and a service log to return to the Office of the First Lady. Parents or guardians will need to help their child fill out the required contact information on the service log and return it to the Office of the First Lady by **Wednesday, August 12**.

#### RECOGNITION

All students who complete the challenge will receive a certificate of recognition signed by First Lady Maria Lee.

To REGISTER for the Tennessee Kids Serve Summer Challenge,  
visit: [www.tn.gov/firstlady/kids](http://www.tn.gov/firstlady/kids)



@firstladymarialee



First Lady Maria Lee



@firstladymarialee



@MariaLeeTN

615-741-7846

[www.tn.gov/firstlady](http://www.tn.gov/firstlady)

[Tennessee.Serves@tn.gov](mailto:Tennessee.Serves@tn.gov)

#TNKidsServe

# Tennessee Kids Serve Challenge Categories

## Summer Challenge Guidelines:

- 1) Challenge participants must complete a service activity from at least *four* of the 8 categories.
- 2) Challenge participants must submit their completed service log along with photos of the child serving to the Office of the First Lady by **Wednesday, August 12.**

We have listed examples of service activities under each category; however, you do not have to use these examples. We challenge you to get creative and come up with your own service project ideas!

### Category 1: Care for the food-insecure

#### *Examples:*

- Pack snack bags for children who receive assistance at food banks. Ask your local food bank what to include in the bags!
- Make place mats for a local Meals on Wheels program to deliver with the meals they provide.
- Place a box on your porch. Let your neighbors know that you are collecting goods for a local food pantry.

### Category 2: Encourage Essential Workers

#### *Examples:*

- Plan a parade of friends to welcome and cheer on the healthcare workers as they arrive for morning duty.
- Make treats and leave them at your front door or mailbox for postal workers and delivery drivers.
- Make thank you cards for grocers. Whenever you go to the grocery, pass them out to the workers you see there.

### Category 3: Show kindness to the elderly

#### *Examples:*

- Make flower arrangements to decorate the dining room of a local senior citizen center.
- Ask the Director of a local nursing home to pair you with a resident who would enjoy a pen pal. Write letters to your pen pal and foster a friendship with them.
- Find an elderly person that needs help with outdoor chores: offer to mow their grass, water their flowers, wash their car...

### Category 4: Support foster kids and families

#### *Examples:*

- Drop off snacks at the local DCS office where foster children wait for placement.
- Donate new or gently used clothing and/or toys to a local foster care non-profit.
- If you know a family who is fostering, make a fun kit to celebrate a foster child's birthday and drop it off to them.

### Category 5: Thank first responders

#### *Examples:*

- Create care packages for firefighters or policemen in your neighborhood. You might include granola bars, gum, hand sanitizer, a thank you note, water etc.
- Decorate a first responder's mailbox or sidewalk to say thank you.
- Host a cookie drive. Have your friends each bring a batch of cookies. Enjoy delivering cookies to your local firefighters and policemen together – and be sure to tell them thank you!

### Category 6: Honor veterans and servicemen and women

#### *Examples:*

- Write thank you notes or letters of encouragement to members of the military.
- Clean up trash and debris at your local veterans cemetery.
- Make a meal and deliver it to a Gold Star family who has lost a loved one in the line of duty.

### Category 7: Uplift the homeless

#### *Examples:*

- Keep cold waters and snacks in the car to give to unhoused individuals as you encounter them around your community.
- Have a coat drive in your neighborhood and donate your collection to a homeless shelter.
- Collect toiletries and donate them to an organization that serves the homeless population.

### Category 8: Free Choice

*Use your creativity to serve a cause you are passionate about. Talk as a family about what individuals or causes you would like to help. You can repeat one of the activities listed above or use your creativity to meet a need for a person or cause you care about. Share with us what you did so that we can add it to our list of ideas!*



@firstladymarialee



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