

Mitzvah Project Ideas

These ideas have been collected from a variety of B'nei Mitzvah students, synagogues, friends, organizations, and very creative people! We hope this helps you explore more ideas to create your own community service project.

We always appreciate your input. Email us if you have suggestions for additions, or if you find a broken or incorrect link within our site.

Animals:

- [Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind Website](#)
- [Hands-on Projects](#)
- [Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc.](#)
- [PETA](#)
- [San Antonio Audubon Society](#)
- [Animal Defense League of Texas](#)
- [San Antonio Humane Society](#)
- [SNIPSA](#)
- [Detection Rats](#)
- [World Wildlife Foundation \(WWF\)](#)
- [Hope 4 Hounds](#)
- Find an animal rescue facility or contact your local ASPCA to see how you may help. Try painting or making over an adoption room, cleaning the facility, or making pet toys. Many shelters and rescues have volunteer age restrictions or require you to help with a parent. Inquire within.
- Ask your clergy or synagogue director to help organize a 'Bark Mitzvah' event. Bake dog treats, map out a dog walk and plan a way to fundraise. Donate the funds to a dog rescue or animal shelter of your choice.
- Want to save an endangered species? Adopt an endangered species of your choosing! Or start a petition on Change.org and get your friends and family to sign it.
- Find a therapeutic horseback riding facility near you to help in the barn, brush the horses and give a hand to the riders.

- ORNITHOLOGY—Become a birder and educate the public about birds. Learn more by volunteering at a local zoo.
- Make or decorate birdhouses.

The Arts:

- [Say Si](#)
- [Artpace](#)
- [The Magik Theatre](#)
- Organize an art show using original student artwork and donate the proceeds to a cause.
- Brighten up a homeless shelter with children's artwork created through an original art contest.
- Organize a photography show with original student photographs.
- Become the historian for a community organization and take pictures at their events.
- Collect the photos and organize them into scrapbooks.
- Videotape your town's history by interviewing the historical society, researching books in the library, and finding old maps of how the town has evolved. Ask the township to feature your video on their website.
- Invite friends to a pottery store to decorate vases (or purchase paintable vases at an art store). Fill the vases with flowers and bring them to a rehabilitation center to brighten the patients' rooms.
- If you are handy with woodwork, build doghouses and contact an animal rescue shelter to donate your creations.
- Coordinate painting a mural at a shelter.
- Direct, choreograph and produce your own theater production as a summer project.
- Collect old dance shoes and leotards to donate to kids who can't afford them.
- Hold a dance marathon at a studio to raise money for a charity.
- Host a dance instruction party for special needs children at your dance studio.

Book, Literacy, & Writing

- [Reach Out and Read](#)
- [Jewish Literacy Coalition](#)
- [San Antonio Youth Literacy](#) (Reading Buddies)
- [SA Reads](#)
- [Inside Books Project](#)
- Help a library purchase new materials by organizing your own used book sale.
- Collect books from friends and family and donate them to an inner-city school without a library or a domestic abuse safe house for families.
- Offer to read to young children at a tutoring center or preschool.
- Write a book about a topic which interests you.
- Write a poem about a topic of concern.
- Write letters to politicians about your cause or political views.
- Record and write the life story of an elderly friend or family member, for example, a Holocaust survivor!
- Design & create a recipe book that can be sold through your synagogue's sisterhood or at a school event in which the proceeds benefit a charity of your choice.
- Help maintain or host a book drive for Temple Beth-El's Little Free Library

Clothing

- [Pajama Program](#)
- [Sweet Dreams for Kids](#)
- [The Joy of Sox](#)
- [One Warm Coat](#)
- [Project Linus](#)
- Clothing drive for schools or homeless shelter

Community

- [Stopping Gun Violence](#)

- [KaBoom!](#)
- [American Red Cross](#)
- [Institute of Southern Jewish Life](#)
- [Salvation Army](#)
- [Haven for Hope](#)
- [Jewish Family Service](#)
- [United Way of San Antonio](#)
- [Equality Texas](#)
- [Texas Organizing Project](#)
- [Seeds of Peace](#)
- [Esperanza Peace & Justice Center](#)
- [Seeds for Peace](#)
- [Kids 4 Peace](#)
- [The Good People Fund](#)
- [North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry \(NACOEJ\)](#)
- [JustServe](#)
- [Center for Refugee Services](#)
- [Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services \(RAICES\)](#)
- [Twilight Wish Foundation](#)
- [San Antonio Jewish Senior Services \(SAJSS\)](#)
- [SACRD](#)
- Visit, celebrate Jewish Holidays, play games, dance, plan an art craft or teach a class.
- Organize a neighborhood block party to build a sense of community. Earmark the funds towards a neighborhood beautification or recycling project.
- Contact a nursing home and organize a Scrabble tournament or Bingo game to be enjoyed by both young and young at heart.
- Organize a car wash at a school. Donate the proceeds to your favorite charity.
- Start a jump rope contest for your synagogue's youth group. Have each participant bring a toy under \$5 to donate to a toy drive.

- Arrange a rollerskating party. Have each friend attending bring a non-perishable snack to donate for a food pantry.
- Host a sleepover party. Stay up all night baking cookies and bring them the next day to a 4H program, neighborhood youth program or family services center.

Education:

- [Pencils of Promise](#)
- [Love to Langa](#)
- [Friends of Yemin Orde Youth Village](#)
- [Mitzvah Project Ideas](#)
- [World ORT](#)
- [Jewish Coalition for Literacy](#)
- Collect school supplies and donate them to a classroom in need.
- Conduct a 'read-a-thon' in your school. Challenge the students to read an hour each day after school. The winning student will log the most reading hours.
- Help a backpack drive in your local community. These usually take place towards the end of the summer to prepare for the start of school.

End Bullying:

- [Anti-Defamation League](#)
- [ADL's Ideas for Mitzvah Project](#)
- [Family Violence Prevention Services](#)
- [Not in Our Town](#)
- [Stomp Out Bullying](#)
- [David's Law](#)
- Start an Anti-Bullying campaign in your school or community by creating flyers, presenting to an audience, and getting in touch with the local newspapers to help you spread the word. Have your friends sign a petition and see how many anti-bullying pledges you can obtain.

Environment:

- [JNF-Jewish National Fund](#)
- [Mitzvah Project Ideas](#)
- [Water.org](#)
- [Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas](#)
- [Charity Water](#)
- [Water for People](#)
- [Hazon](#)
- [The Rainforest Alliance](#)
- [Keep SA Beautiful](#)
- [San Antonio Water System \(SAWS\)](#)
- [Thirst Project](#)
- Organize a recycling program in your school or synagogue.
- Become a spokesperson to save endangered species.
- Campaign for the environment, whether its anti-fracking or clean water and become a community advocate.
- Start your own summer vegetable garden (start it late April/early May) and donate the crops to a food bank. [Read about how this teen did it!](#)
- Teach others how to save our natural resources.
- Clean up litter in a local park or school or Jewish cemetery.
- Teach others in your community how to recycle and help save our planet.

Hunger (Baking & Food):

- [Meals on Wheels](#)
- [aniMEALS](#)
- [San Antonio Food Bank](#)
- [Haven for Hope](#)
- [Mazon](#)
- [Texas Hunger Initiative](#)

- [World Hunger Relief](#)
- [Heifer International](#)
- [Feeding America](#)
- Bake desserts and sell them to raise funds for an organization important to you or your family.
- Find a Meals that Matter or Caring Congregants program in your synagogue to help cook or bake meals for the food insecure.
- A local soup kitchen may need help during dinner service. Contact your [United Way](#) to find volunteer opportunities there.
- Bake a dessert or dinner for a family going through a crisis. Deliver the meal in person.
- Begin a healthy eating campaign at school. Enlist the help of the physical education teacher and guidance counselor.
- Collect non-perishable food donations from friends and family to donate to your local food bank.
- Find out how you can donate your leftover bar/bat mitzvah party food to those in need. Your caterer can help.
- Pass out bags to homeless people:
 - Bags with food/snacks, hand sanitizer, water, toothbrush/toothpaste, socks, etc

Health:

- [Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer](#)
- [Collect used cell phones to fund healthcare](#)
- [Kids v Cancer](#)
- [Save a Child's Heart Foundation \(SACH\)](#)
- [Relay for Life – American Cancer Society](#)
- [Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation](#)
- [American Friends of Magen David Adom \(AFMDA\)](#)
- [Women Facing Breast Cancer – Sharsheret](#)
- [Mitzvah Project Ideas](#)

- Saras-smiles.org
- [Prevention of Jewish genetic diseases](#)
- [Eyeglass recycling via the Lions Clubs](#)
- [Children's Hospital of San Antonio](#)
- [American Heart Association](#)
- [San Antonio AIDS Foundation](#)
- [University Health System](#)
- [CHRISTUS Santa Rosa](#)
- [Methodist Healthcare](#)
- [The Center for Health Care Services](#)
- Make get well soon cards for patients at local hospitals
- Make decorations for a local hospital
- Visit with patients in hospital/hospice
- Create a mural
- Make blankets
- Raise money for a particular disease, patient, or medical cause
- Donate books or toys to a children's hospital

Holocaust:

- [Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio](#)
- [Holocaust Awareness Mitzvah Project](#)

Israel:

- [Abraham Initiatives](#)
- [The Jaffa Institute](#)
- [Combatants for Peace](#)
- [Friends of the Israel Defense Forces](#)
- [Israel Orphanage for Girls Lev LaLev](#)
- [Elifelet – Citizens for Refugee Children](#)

- [Arab Jewish summer camp in Jerusalem Project Harmony Israel](#)
- [Helping Israel's Soldiers](#)
- [Jerusalem Center for Blind Children with Multiple Disabilities – Keren Or](#)
- [American Friends of Magen David Adom \(AFMDA\)](#)
- [ADI](#)
- [Yad Eliezer](#)
- [Mitzvah Project Idea](#)
- [Zion Orphanage](#)
- [Israel Guide Dogs](#)
- [PeacePlayers Middle East](#)

US Armed Forces

- [Cell Phones for Soldiers](#)
- [A Package from Home](#)
- [Kosher Troops](#)
- [Operation Gratitude](#)
- [Wounded Warrior Project](#)
- Write letters to soldiers overseas
- Make care packages for soldiers overseas
- Visit a local Veteran hospital

Music:

- [Music and Memory](#)
- [Hungry for Music](#)
- [Music for Autism](#)
- [Songsoflove.org](#)
- Write a song for charity.
- Invite friends and family over for a karaoke night. Charge an entry fee and donate the funds to a charity of your choice.
- Collect instruments for inner-city music programs in need of funding and equipment.

- Take your band on the road for a school performance. Sell tickets and donate the proceeds to a music program in need.
- Spread cheer to children or senior citizens by visiting them at a local shelter or nursing home and playing your instrument or singing.

Special Needs:

- [Shutaf](#)
- [Autism Speaks](#)
- [I Can Shine](#)
- [Straps Sports](#)
- [Morgan's Wonderland](#)
 - Become a ['Morgan's Wonderland Volunteer](#)
- [CAMP Camp](#)
- [Special Olympics Texas](#)
- [ADI](#)

Sports:

- [Charity Ball](#)
- [PeacePlayers International](#)
- [Pitch in for Baseball](#)
- [Israel Tennis Centers Foundation](#)
- www.soccerforpeace.com
- [Mifalot](#)
- Join a special needs sports team and become a buddy in the sport you enjoy most!
- Collect equipment for those in areas of the U.S. or abroad who don't have access to good sporting items.
- Organize a sporting tournament to help promote a cause. Charge a fee to play and donate the money to that cause.

Technology:

- Tech 4 Tots
- [Project MEND](#)
- Put together a drive to recycle electronics. Promote it through your synagogue, school, and neighborhood with flyers. Ask the recycling company to donate a portion of their proceeds to the charity of your choice.
- Design a website for a cause.
- Designate a 'no cell phone' area near your school. Promote safe driving and the use of hand-free devices.
- Collect old computers for those in need.
- Teach email, surfing the web, and document creation to the elderly.
- Create a video montage of an event or cause for a non-profit limited on funding.
- Develop a Public Service Announcement video to be shown in your school about a topic which interests you and is meaningful.
- Teach a technology class at a senior center or school.

Youth:

- [Boys and Girls Club](#)
- [George Gervin Youth Center](#)
- [The Children's Shelter in San Antonio](#)
- [Ronald McDonald House – San Antonio](#)
- [Seton Home](#)
- [Thrive Youth Center](#) (LGBT Youth)
- [Fiesta Youth](#) (LGBT Youth)
- [Roy Maas Youth Alternatives](#)
- [Stand Up for Kids – San Antonio](#)
- [CreativKids SA – Camp at Temple Beth-El](#)
- Plan a donation drive for books, toys, or school/art supplies