



Creative Outreach Possibilities

WITH PATHFINDERS

Outreach during Covid-19

- ▶ We are living in a time when we have to make adjustments on how we interact with each other.
- ▶ We have to wear masks, social distance (no hugging) and if we are not well, stay away from others.
- ▶ Safety is very important, but, it should not dictate our service to others.....



What is Outreach?

- Outreach is the act or practice of visiting and providing services to people who might not otherwise have access to those services.





Outreach

- Christians are called to reach out to the world in which they live.
- Volunteering some of your time to outreach activities can be very rewarding both for you and the people you help.
- Remember, when you are trying to witness to people, actions speak louder than words .
- Participating in outreach activities can help show the world around you Christ's love.
- Here are some outreach activities you can get started in your Pathfinder Club:



Celebration Box

- ▶ Look for opportunities to serve church members
- ▶ Talk to each senior's family to find out their favorite snacks, sports teams, and places to shop and eat
- ▶ Purchase gifts and gift cards for their boxes.
- ▶ Put together a celebration box for each senior and drop it off on their doorstep.
- ▶ This kind of personalization will make the seniors feel special and cared for.
- ▶ The elderly and shut-ins will really appreciate and enjoy this act of kindness from the youth

Seniors in the Church/Community

- Support our seniors:
- Write a note, give a neighbor your phone number to call if they are lonely or need help with the below items:
 - Mowing the lawn
 - Raking the leaves
 - Shoveling the snow
 - Running errands
- Place the note in a plastic bag and hang it on their door
- Call them on a regular basis
- Send them a card or letter in the mail, to let them know you are thinking about them



First Responders

- Choose one: Hospital workers, Firefighters, EMTs, Police Officers etc.
 - Send cards and letters thanking them for their dedicated service
 - Place signs in a public space where they can see it
 - Get your families, friends and church family to contribute to the purchase of the meals
 - If a friend or family member can sew, ask them to make some masks
 - Give them a point of contact # to reach out to if they need anything
- Stay Safe at Home
 - We all know what this means



Feeding the Homeless

- This is an enlightening experience that will allow the pathfinders to see how many people in their own communities live in need of basic resources.
- Grab supplies and have the pathfinders make paper bag lunches.
- Go to parts of town where there is a large population of homeless people and hand out lunches.
- Spend some time serving food at a local food kitchen.
- You can also put together care packages for those in need, consisting of essential items.
- Take those items to homeless shelters for distribution



Clothing the Homeless

- Many of us have coats/clothes we don't use that others would be so grateful to wear
- Ask church members for donations
- Hand out fliers to people in the community to bag up their unused clothes and donate it
- Make sure the flier has a date, time, location and contact phone # for the drop off
- For those unable to drop off, make arrangements for pick up
- Have pathfinders separate them by season, gender and size
- Deliver them to local homeless shelters to be given to the homeless population



Visit a Children's Hospital

- ▶ Kids who are enduring long-term treatments at children's hospitals miss out on a wide range of childhood events.
- ▶ Reach out to a local children's hospital to see if there is a way your club can cheer them up.
- ▶ Ideas can range from:
 - ▶ Reading stories to younger kids
 - ▶ Playing games with older kids
 - ▶ Organizing an event like an art day, music day or other types of activity they might have at school.
- ▶ Most importantly, be sure everyone is in good health before attending, to avoid spreading illness.



Members of the Armed Forces

- ▶ Writing cards and letters to servicemen and women overseas throughout the year is a great way to support our troops
- ▶ This website will explain how it can be accomplished
 - ▶ <https://supportourtroops.org/cards-letters>
- ▶ Another way we can support our servicemen and women overseas is through prayers
 - ▶ There's a lot of need in this world and our soldiers need prayer.
 - ▶ Purchase toy soldiers and put it in a container
 - ▶ Place the container in a location that is visible by the community
 - ▶ Anywhere except your home, you need to get permission
 - ▶ Create a sign that asks the community to take one soldier home and pray for our soldiers





Virtual Babysitting

- Create a scavenger or treasure hunt for the children, incorporating a Bible story.
- Enlist parents to gather the items from the story and hide them in a bedroom
- Gather the kids and parents on Zoom at a specific time to kick off the hunt
- When all the treasures have been found, incorporate a devotional and reactions from the kids.
- Other games that can be played virtually:
 - Bingo
 - Charades
 - Freeze Dance

Virtual Tutoring

- ▶ You don't have to be a genius to help out young kids with their homework.
- ▶ If you're really good at a subject, offer to tutor kids through Zoom or FaceTime.
- ▶ Now that everyone's stuck at home, kids may be depending on their parents to help them with their homework
- ▶ It's been years since many of the parents have had to solve a quadratic equation
- ▶ Ask your teacher if he/she knows of any student who needs help with school assignments (subject)
- ▶ Contact the student and decide on a day and time that will work best for both of you



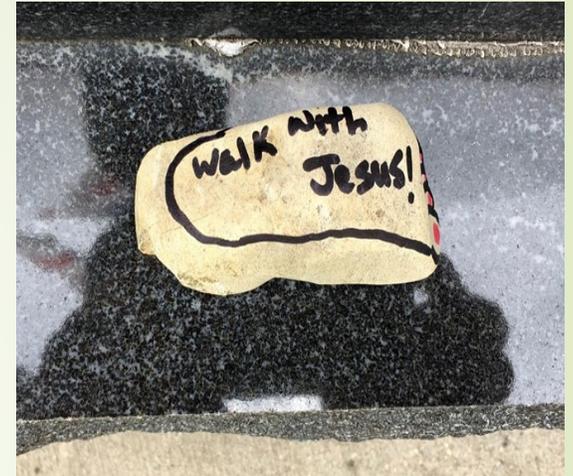
Reading Program

- ▶ Reading helps to promote literacy
- ▶ Reading also strengthens children's social, emotional, and character development
- ▶ Small children love when people read to them. Pre-schoolers will crawl in your lap and listen to the story
- ▶ Check with local pre-schools, neighborhood centers, and libraries to see if there is a time your pathfinders can come in to read to the children.
- ▶ Your group can read both Christian and Non-Christian books and act out skits to entertain the children.
- ▶ Reading can also be done virtually



Rock Painting

- The painted rock, sometimes called a kindness stone, is simply a rock that someone has decorated with an inspirational message.
- They can be any size or shape, as big or small as you like! The point of this stone painting is to sprinkle positivity around your community.
- Once you create one, the idea is to leave it somewhere for another person to find and enjoy.
- As we all know, sometimes a simple message of love and compassion can spark joy and brighten someone's entire day.
- Place them across the park, at key places that would catch people's attention



\$1.00 Car Wash

- Purchase 100 Steps to Christ books
- Place a large sign in front the church with the date and time
- Collect the \$1.00 from the drivers
- Wash the vehicle with the drivers sitting inside
- After the vehicle is washed and dried:
 - Thank them for coming
 - Give them a Steps to Christ with the \$1 inside



Prayer Drop Box

- Prayer is the way we communicate with God. We don't have to be in the building to do that.
- **Pick a location:**
 - A visible spot in front of your local church
 - Place the Prayer Request Forms in a Ziploc bag and nail it beneath the sign
 - Check the Prayer Box regularly, once or twice a week
 - When supplies are low, refill the Ziploc bags with Prayer Request Forms
 - Give all the prayer requests to the Pastor



 **PRAYER REQUEST**

We will be glad to join with you in praying for your specific needs.

Please write your request here and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.

Please pray for _____

Requested by _____ Date _____

_____ I would like someone to contact me to pray over more confidential matters. Phone number _____

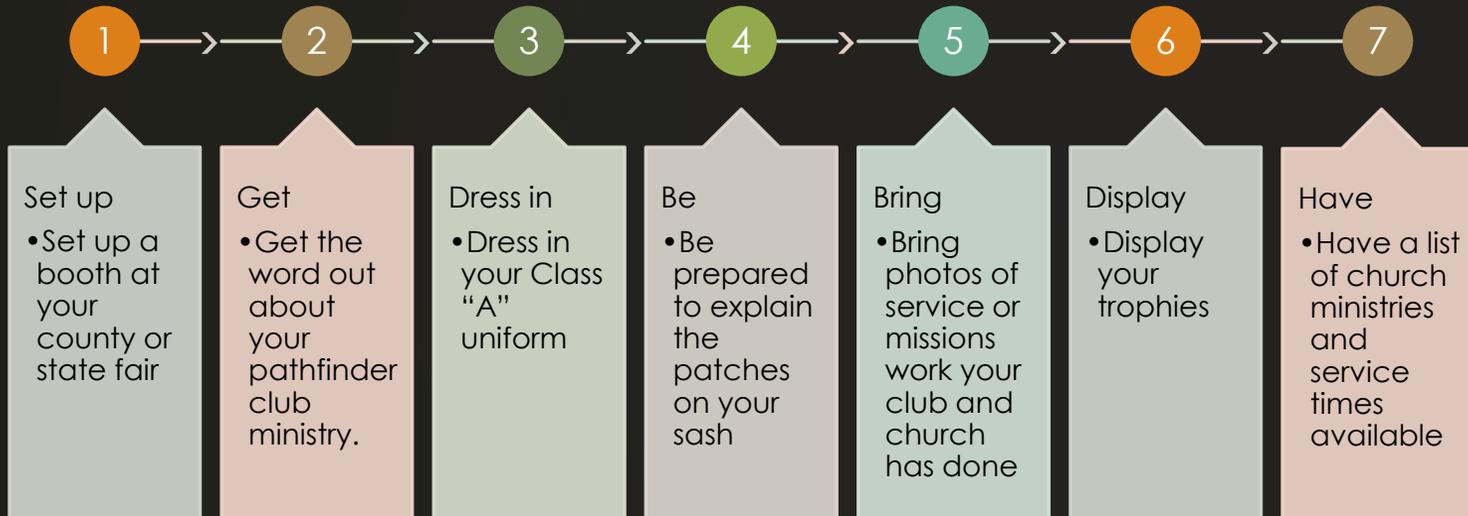
Please share with us as God meets your needs so that we may rejoice with you!

Blessing Box

- A Blessing Box is a small, homemade structure where people leave donated goods for others to pick up anonymously. These items help fulfill short-term basic needs for those who don't always have access to them.
- **Pick a location:**
 - A visible spot close to a local church, community garden or library
- **Offer a variety:**
 - Nonperishable items. Toiletries, like deodorant, soap and shampoo
- **Encourage others to give:**
 - Create a sign - "Take what you need, give what you can"
- **Let others know:**
 - Spread the word through social media



Booth at Fair



Friendship Kit

- Social distancing can be tough, especially when it means missing out being with your friends.



- This can also be sent to someone to whom you would like to have as a friend.

Virtual Dinner

- Choose an occasion
- Invite your friends
- As a group, come up with a simple recipe
- Decide on a date and time
- Someone in the group will send out the Zoom invite
- Everyone joins at the appointed time
- Sit down to dinner – small talk
- After dinner games will need another Zoom invite
 - Remember - ZOOM - Free accounts only allow up to 40 minutes of connection at a time



References

- ▶ Mahoney, Kelli. "Awesome Outreach Ideas." Learn Religions, Aug. 27, 2020, learnreligions.com/awesome-outreach-ideas-712585.
- ▶ A Complete Guide to Rock Painting and Spreading a Little Kindness Through Art. <https://inspirekindness.com/blog/rock-painting>
- ▶ Kids Community Outreach Tips and Ideas, Jabali, Erica <https://www.signupgenius.com/home/kids-community-outreach.cfm>
- ▶ Why reading aloud to kids help them thrive, May 15, 2018, <https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/why-reading-aloud-to-kids-helps-them-thrive#:~:text=But%20reading%20also%20strengthens%20children's,%2C%20hyperactivity%2C%20and%20attention%20difficulties>.
- ▶ How to Thank Essential Workers During COVID-19, Voices in Caring, March 31, 2020, <https://www.crossroadshospice.com/hospice-palliative-care-blog/2020/march/31/how-to-thank-essential-workers-during-covid-19/>

