**9-11 Service Project Notes on State Officer Curated List of Favorite Ideas**

**Hygiene Drive**

Partner with local efforts to help those in need by collecting and donating essential items.

Items to collect (check in with place you are donating to as well):

* Hand Soaps
* Toothbrushes & toothpastes
* Shampoo
* Conditioner
* Body Wash
* Mouthwash
* Floss
* Feminine Hygiene Products
* Deodorant
* Razors
* Shaving cream
* Hairbrushes

Where to donate to:

* Local homeless shelter
* Local food shelf
* Caring Hearts in Action - Farmington, MN

**Tie Blankets**

Create and give cozy blankets for people who could use some of your group’s kindness.

Items needed for 1 blanket:

* 2 different fabrics
  + 1.5 yards for a kid-sized blanket or 2 yards for an adult-sized blanket
* Fabric scissors
* Ruler

Lay fabrics with both backsides facing each other

Cut strips 1-2 inches wide and 6 inches long around the entire blanket

Then tie together all of the strips (if you want the ties to be more secure double tie the strips)

Where to donate to:

* A Homeless shelter
* A Children’s Hospital
* A Nursing Home
* A Veterans Home

**Writing letters to Vets and active service members**

Create your own handmade cards (or use pre-made ones that can be sent out from the State Office) and distribute them to Vets through local services like the VA or send them to the State office to get delivered to active service members through [Operation Gratitude](https://www.operationgratitude.com/).

Some phrases to help students out

Thank you for your service

We appreciate your sacrifices

Thank you for blessing us in so many ways

You are valued

You are not forgotten

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to keeping our country safe

We appreciate you

Thank you for protecting our freedom and our country

Thank you for your bravery

**Sidewalk chalk for first responders**

Show your support for first responders by writing encouraging messages in chalk near those buildings – Police Station, Fire Stations, Hospitals etc.

Some phrases to help students out

Thank you for your service

Thank you for all you do for our community

We appreciate all that you do

Your dedication and skill are making a difference

We are here for you, Thank you for being here for us

You are the best and the bravest

Your tireless efforts are not going unnoticed

Stay safe and stay strong