A TOOLKIT FOR SCHOOLS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Value and Importance of Helping Others

An adaptable lesson plan for the observance of the federally-recognized September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance (9/11 Day)

Published by 9/11 Day
June 2021
Dear Educator,

September 11 is now the nation’s largest annual day of service, with thousands of students, teachers and parents participating in a wide range of events and activities. 9/11 Day was officially declared a National Day of Service and Remembrance in 2009 by President Obama and it is an extraordinary opportunity for students to learn the history of 9/11 while honoring the day through acts of service. This year, in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of 9/11, we hope to generate at least one million self-directed acts of service and good deeds.

For educators and students, this 9/11 Day Educator Guide provides lesson plans that are adaptable and easy to implement. The Guide can be used for in-person or virtual instruction and is offered to schools at no cost. It was designed to support educators as they teach a generation of students with no memories of the 9/11 attacks about the impact of that fateful day. By focusing on the unity and support so many Americans experienced in the aftermath of 9/11, teachers can engage their students in a constructive way and lead activities that are focused on good deeds, empathy and public service.

In many ways, the challenges facing our nation today remind us in the 9/11 community of the moments after the September 2001 attacks. As the nation recovers from the COVID-19 crisis, we are once again seeing the power individuals and communities have to make a difference in the lives of those around them. We hope this Guide empowers teachers, students and communities to be bold in their service activities on 9/11 Day and throughout the year. Remember, everyone can make a difference on 9/11 Day.

For more information or with any questions, please email Maria Ferguson at maria.ferguson@911day.org.

Sincerely,

David Paine
Co-founder, 9/11 Day

Jay Winuk
Co-founder, 9/11 Day
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How to Use This Guide

Last year, the COVID-19 crisis made it challenging for educators to mobilize students and families around in-person service activities. Although some limitations may still exist within schools and communities, the 2021-22 school year should make these activities easier for teachers and students.

We encourage you to explore new and alternative ways for young people to help their community in observance of 9/11 Day this year. These lesson plans aim to encourage students to perform simple “good deeds” and other age-appropriate service activities, but students (and teachers!) should feel empowered to make 9/11 Day their own.

Read the Guide and familiarize yourself with the lesson plans and materials included. Consider which of these activities will best meet the diverse needs of your students and community, or get inspired and create your own activity. Adapt the lesson plans to fit your in-person or virtual teaching needs.

Share this Guide with other teachers who may be interested.

Engage your students in conversations about what it means to observe and honor a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

With these actions, you can help us reach our goal to generate a minimum of one million good deeds or other acts of service or kindness on 9/11 Day.
9/11 Day Lesson Plan
The following lesson plan shares eight different activities to help teach your students about 9/11 Day and inspire them to do good deeds in their schools and communities. These activities are meant to inspire you and your students, so feel free to be creative and adapt them to align with your own vision and teaching goals.

Activities
Activity 1: Learning About 9/11 - Age Appropriate Resources
Activity 2: Class Learning and Discussion about 9/11 Day, the federally-recognized September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance
Activity 3: Doing Good Deeds for Others
Activity 4: Good Deeds Pledge
Activity 5: Journal of Good Deeds
Activity 6: Appreciating Those on the Frontlines
Activity 7: Empathy Exit Ticket
Activity 8: Good Deed Movie at Home

A few simple guidelines
- Remember that students K-8 will have no personal memories of the 9/11 events.
- These activities are designed in a Plan-Do-Share model. Sharing your classroom activities, as well as individual activities, as broadly as possible will help to encourage others to also do good deeds.
- Scale the sophistication of these activities to fit the age of your students.
- Adjust these activities to meet whatever learning landscape your students are in, whether in-person, distanced-learning or a hybrid of the two.
- These activities can be just for your classroom or expanded school wide.
- Activities do not need to be done on 9/11, which falls on a Saturday this year. They can be done in advance and in any timeframe that you specify.
9/11 Day Draft Letter to Parents and Guardians

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In observance of 9/11, which is now a federally-recognized National Day of Service and Remembrance (known as “9/11 Day”), each student in our class has been challenged to come up with a good deed they can do over the next month in recognition of this important national observance.

The program was created by 9/11 Day, a nonprofit organization that founded and supports 9/11 Day activities nationwide in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service.

This year, the goal of 9/11 Day is to generate over one million self-directed acts of service and good deeds – charitable activities that young people and others can do individually or with their families to help people in need, including those struggling with racial injustice, economic inequality and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 9/11 Day program provides an excellent way for young children with no memories of 9/11 to learn about the events that day in a constructive way, one that helps them contribute to making the world a better place, one good deed at a time.

Our class is inspired to participate in this effort, and we hope your family will join us by creating one or more good deed(s) you and your child can do together. There is no cost to participate and you are not required to make a cash donation.

[TEACHER: insert specifics on the activity you’ve chosen and how parents can support.]

Thanks for helping your child participate in 9/11 Day.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]
ACTIVITY 1 Learn About the Events of 9/11

Goal: Teach students, in an age-appropriate fashion, about the events of 9/11, leveraging valuable outside resources in addition to internal school resources.

Context

There are many organizations that already provide excellent educational materials and resources to teach students about the events of 9/11. Please find a list of resources here that can help you create a lesson about the attacks and aftermath and/or add additional context for the other lesson plans in this Guide.

Instructions

1. Refer to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum lesson plans for resources to help your students learn the events of 9/11/2001: https://www.911memorial.org/learn/students-and-teachers/lesson-plans.

2. Each year on 9/11, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum hosts an “Anniversary in the Schools” interactive webinar for free. Learn more and sign up for the webinar here: https://www.911memorial.org/learn/students-and-teachers/anniversary-schools-webinar.

3. Additional resources for more information about the events of 9/11 include:

   a. 9/11 Tribute Museum and HBO What happened on September 11 – A history for kids.
      – Use the accompanying lesson plan to discuss the film with students: www.scholastic.com/momentsinfocus/pdfs/whos11_lesson_activity.pdf

   b. The 9/11 Living Memorial shares stories of first responders, volunteers and rescue/recovery workers that are a continuing source of inspiration.


ACTIVITY 2  Class Discussion of the Formation of 9/11 Day, a National Day of Service and Remembrance

Goal: Teach students how and why September 11 became a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

Context
Nearly one-third of our nation is under the age of 25, with little or no memories of 9/11 and the impact that event had on our nation at the time and ever since. As a result, it is difficult for many children and young people to understand and internalize the meaning of 9/11 Day and why it has become such an important moment each year to promote unity, empathy and service.

It is vital that educators, mentors, parents and grandparents share their stories about 9/11 with children and explain why the good deeds they perform honor the memory of everyone impacted by the 9/11 attacks.

Instructions
1. After sharing the events of 9/11 (Activity 1), use this activity to teach your students:
   a. Why the 9/11 families wanted to transform the anniversary of 9/11 into a National Day of Service and Remembrance and how they made it happen.
   b. How young people across America have helped the 9/11 community turn a day marked by tragedy into a day of service, unity and peace.
2. Read the following Read Aloud and/or share the slide deck presentation version in class or online.
3. Use the discussion guide to foster a healthy discussion among the students. Questions can be asked and answered as a group or students can write their own answers to be shared together afterwards.

Materials
2b. Slide deck version of the Read Aloud
2c. Discussion Guide

Click here to access the 9/11 Day slides.  

GOOGLE SLIDES  PDF
2a. Read Aloud - How 9/11 became a day of service
Please modify individual words or concepts to ensure this is age-appropriate for your students.

What happened after the 9/11 attacks?
• In the days after 9/11, people across the country felt united by a desire to help and support one another, creating an extraordinary spirit of empathy and resilience.

• Many Americans stopped thinking about the differences that often separate us, at least for a while, and instead focused on a common sense of empathy and resilience.

• At a time of great sorrow and confusion, this feeling of togetherness helped to reassure, comfort and inspire people across the whole country.

• For those who lived through the tragedy of 9/11, that time of caring and helpfulness remains an important reminder that we are stronger as people, and as a nation, when we work together.

• There were some Americans, however, who were excluded from this sense of national unity, and in fact, encountered increased discrimination as a result of the 9/11 attacks.

How 9/11 became a National Day of Service and Remembrance?
• The sense of unity and compassion felt by so many Americans after 9/11 inspired the family members of those who died in the attacks to transform September 11th into a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

• The goal of the 9/11 families and others was to create a positive way for Americans to honor and pay tribute to their lost loved ones.

• After an eight-year effort by the 9/11 community, September 11 was officially designated a National Day of Service and Remembrance in the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act passed by U.S. Congress in 2009, as well as under a Presidential Proclamation signed by President Barack Obama.

• The only other federally recognized Day of Service is Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, which is recognized on the third Monday in January each year.

What happens each year on September 11?
• Since 2009, 9/11 has grown to become the largest annual day of service in America.

• Tens of millions of people, including many young people, spend time volunteering, supporting charities, performing simple good deeds and being especially kind to others.

• These actions are shared as widely as possible - through the news, social media and more - to encourage even more people to do good deeds for others.
Why is this year special?

- The COVID-19 crisis makes the this year’s 9/11 Day of Service especially important. So many people have been greatly affected by the virus, either getting sick or having a loved one die. The most vulnerable and disadvantaged among us have suffered the most.

- Many people have lost their jobs, could not go to work or school, or do the things they love because of COVID-19. There is still a sense of loss, even though things are getting better.

- Despite all this hardship, 9/11 Day gives us a chance to support and show compassion to those around us. By doing simple good deeds and working together to help others, we can keep that spirit alive all year long.

- The kindness and compassion that inspired the 9/11 Day of Service is just as relevant today as it was 20 years ago.

What kinds of good deeds do people do?

- Families and individuals have done thousands of different things, such as:
  - donated clothing, bicycles, eyeglasses and books
  - purchased needed school supplies for teachers
  - volunteered to walk dogs for local animal shelters
  - cleaned up parks
  - repaired and cleaned temporary housing for veterans
  - engaged in a wide range of other service activities

- Students have:
  - written thank you notes to first responders
  - held bake sales to raise money for local charities or their school
  - delivered cookies for local police and fire stations
  - cleaned debris from school yards or parks
  - created or tended community gardens

- Anything that you would like to do for another person that shows kindness or helps them is a good deed!
2b. Read aloud with accompanying slide deck.

Cover Slide:

How September 11 became a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

Full narrative for Slide 2:

- After the 9/11 attacks, many Americans felt united by a desire to help those in need.

- That outpouring of compassion and solidarity provided comfort and support to the 9/11 families and many others.

- Those who remember 9/11 still talk about the unity they felt then and how it inspired them to do something for those in need.

Transforming a day of tragedy into a day of purpose.

Full narrative for Slide 3:

- Soon after the attacks, 9/11 families created the organization “9/11 Day.”

- 9/11 Day’s mission was to transform a day of tragedy into a day of good deeds, kind acts and service.

- In 2009, September 11 was officially designated a National Day of Service under federal law. 9/11 Day joined MLK Day as the nation’s only other official day of service.
What happens each year on 9/11 Day?

Full narrative for Slide 4:

• Each year on 9/11 Day, people are asked to honor and remember the day by doing good deeds in service to others.

• 9/11 Day has grown to become the nation’s largest annual day of service in America.

• Millions of Americans, including many young people, participate by volunteering, supporting charities or doing simple, good deeds that help others.

Teaching a new generation about 9/11 Day.

Full narrative for Slide 5:

• Today, there are more than 100 million people under the age of 24 in the U.S. This group didn’t live through 9/11 or they aren’t old enough to remember it.

• These young people have shown the world that they have a heart for service and a desire for action. They are influencers - not only of their peers, but of their parents and older family members - and they are more reachable and teachable than any other generation.

• This year they can make the 9/11 Day of Service their own.

What can the lessons of September 11 teach us about how to manage challenges like the COVID pandemic, racial injustice and political discord?

Full narrative for Slide 6:

• In moments of unspeakable pain, solidarity and unity can bring us together.

• Kindness, empathy and good deeds do make things better.

• Everyone can be a hero and everyone can make a difference.

• There is more that unites us than divides us.
Kindness and good deeds do make things better. What kind of good deeds can you do?

Full narrative for Slide 7:

- Donate clothing, bikes, books or household items.
- Write thank you notes to healthcare workers, delivery people and others who work hard to help us deal with COVID.
- Volunteer at a local organization helping people and families in your community.
- Make your bed and help around your house.
- Help someone with their homework and be a better friend.
- Participate in an outdoor clean-up effort.
- Volunteers working with students to create craft books for 9/11 Day

Any good deed counts! Everyone can make a difference on 9/11 day.

(2-minute video)

Video is embedded in the slide, and can be found here.
2c. Discussion Guide

Discuss important themes of unity, service and good deeds with your students.

Choose based on the age of your students

1. How do you think younger people, especially students who were in school near the World Trade Center in NYC, were impacted by the 9/11 attacks?

2. In what ways did people help each other during the 9/11 attacks and afterward?

3. Why do you think they helped each other?

4. Why did the country seem to be more unified for a period of time immediately after 9/11?

5. Were some people excluded from this sense of unity and blamed for the 9/11 attacks?

6. Do you know what empathy is? Did people have empathy for each other after 9/11?

7. How were you and your family or friends affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?

8. What can the experiences of 9/11 teach us about how we can overcome the challenges we now face as a nation?

9. What are some of the reasons people are not united today, and what can people do to understand and get along better today?

10. What did first responders do to help on 9/11 and the weeks after? What did they do to help during COVID-19?

11. What kind of people do you think choose to become first responders?

12. What makes them so brave and so willing to risk their lives to help people in need?

13. How can we all be a little like “first responders” in our own lives?

14. What things might you do to help others this September 11th?
ACTIVITY 3 Doing Good Deeds for Others
Goal: Teach students what a good deed is and inspire them to do good deeds for others.

Instructions
1. Lead a class discussion about:
   a. A good deed is a selfless act that is carried out to serve and care for others. It is not about recognition or praise.
   b. Why do we do good deeds?
   c. What kinds of good deeds have students done in the past for their families, friends or their community?
   d. How can good deeds be tangible (helping a friend with a task, making breakfast for mom) or intangible (showing kindness or empathy for others)?
   e. What kinds of good deeds did people do during COVID-19 to help others?

2. Create a class good deeds list from the discussion using the worksheet below or any other format. Refer to the 11 Good Deed Examples by Age Group to spur ideas with the group.

3. Invite your students to individually consider and write down a few good deeds they might be able to do for 9/11 Day this year. Use the Good Deed Student Worksheet.

4. Ask each student to choose one idea they might want to do. It can be one of their ideas, or an idea suggested by fellow classmates. It’s OK if students want to do the same thing, or team up.

Materials
3a. Class Good Deeds List
3b. 11 Good Deed Examples by Age Group
3c. Good Deed Student Worksheet - Written
3d. Good Deed Student Worksheet - Drawing
3a. Class Good Deeds List
Brainstorm your class good deeds here.
3b. 10 Good Deed Examples by Age Group

Elementary School (Grades K-5)

1. If you have a garden or fruit tree, leave a box of extra produce outside of your home to share your fresh food with neighbors.

2. Go on a nature walk in your community and take pictures of interesting things you find (plants, animals, art, etc.). Make a collage of those photos and send it to friends or family to share your neighborhood beauty with them. Little Pine Learners provides lots of ideas to turn your walk into a scavenger hunt.

3. Leave a kind message and snack out for your postal carriers and delivery workers to thank them for continuing their hard work during the pandemic.

4. Write encouraging messages and/or art with chalk in your driveway or on the sidewalk for people passing by.

5. Make cards for elderly nursing home residents who endured loneliness and isolation during the height of the COVID-19 crisis.

6. Make the bed or do another chore for your family members without being asked.

7. Put on a play or short skit to teach kids and families in your neighborhood about how we protected our health and safety during COVID-19.

8. Decorate kindness rocks and place them around your neighborhood for people to discover. Follow these instructions to make your own.

9. Help set the table for dinner or wash dishes after a family meal.

10. Video chat with a grandparent or other relative that you haven't been able to visit recently.
Middle School (Grades 6-8)

1. Make thank you cards for the brave first responders and firefighters on the frontline during the pandemic. Reach out to local departments in your community or mail letters to Operation Gratitude and they’ll distribute them.

2. Make a creative thank you video for healthcare workers with your friends or classmates and send it to a local hospital.

3. Assemble hygiene or care kits for the homeless and donate them to local shelters.

4. Bake a warm meal for a neighbor and deliver it to them.

5. If you have a garden or fruit tree, donate extra fruit or vegetables to a nearby food pantry or soup kitchen.

6. If you have family members working from home, make breakfast, lunch or dinner for them.

7. Reuse plastic bottles or other materials as planters for pollinator-friendly flowers. Plant flowers in memorial to those who’ve lost their lives to COVID-19. Here are some ideas for planter decoration.

8. Use the WWF Environmental Footprint Calculator to calculate your ecological footprint. After you know your footprint, brainstorm ideas for how you might be able to reduce it.

9. Donate books you no longer need to a homeless shelter or Little Free Library in your community.

In addition to these examples, please visit 911day.org to see a list of good deeds.
3c. Good Deed Student Worksheet - Written

To help you do a good deed this year, please fill in the following information. If you did a good deed for 9/11 in previous years, try something new this year.

NAME: ______________________________________________________________________________________

SCHOOL: ____________________________________________________________________________________

TEACHER: ____________________________________________________________________________________

Write down three good deeds you’ve thought about for 9/11 this year:

1. ____________________________________________________________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________________________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________________________________________________________

Which one did you select?

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Why did you choose that one?

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Who will this good deed help and why did you pick them?

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Today’s Date: ______________________________

I did (plan to do) my good deed on: ______________________________
3d. Good Deed Student Worksheet - Drawing

Draw a picture of the good deed you are going to do this year.

The good deed that I did was:

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Doing this good deed made me feel:

____________________________________________________________________________________________________
ACTIVITY 4 Good Deed Pledge

Can be used as a follow up from Activity 3

Goal: Help students to inspire others by sharing their pledge for 9/11.

Instructions

1. When your students have decided what they plan to do, the next step is for them to make a public pledge.

2. Have your students fill in and color the Pledge Card that outlines the good deed they have chosen.

3. Option: Students can create their own Pledge Card design, describing what they plan to do for 9/11. These personal cards are a chance for children to be creative and could be made of any materials and be any size.

4. Have the students share with the class what they pledged and why.

5. Display the Pledge Cards in the classroom on a “virtual wall” for online classrooms or a school hallway.

6. Option: Take pictures of each person holding their Pledge Card to accompany the Pledge Cards on display.

7. Share these Pledge Cards on social media personal channels or the school's TV channel, if possible, using #911day.

Materials

4a. Good Deed Pledge Card
4a. Good Deed Pledge Card

Student Pledge Card

#911GoodDeed Challenge

My First Name Is: __________________ My Teacher Is: ______________________

My Grade Is: ______

I live in (City/State): ______________________________________________________

For 911 Day this year, I plan to: ____________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

I did (plan to do) my good deed on: __________________________
ACTIVITY 5  Journal of Good Deeds

This is designed as a traditional journal, but alternatively, students could create digital journals and take pictures or videos to document their good deeds.

Goal: To encourage deeper engagement and ownership of good deeds, provide a way for students to document their service throughout the month of September.

Instructions

1. Provide students with a notebook that will be their Journal of Good Deeds or use the Good Deed Journal Page as a printout to fill out.

2. Plan time every day or every few days for students to write down the good deeds they have done.

3. For younger students, they could draw a picture of doing a good deed instead of writing them out.

4. Organize a way for students to share what they have drawn or written with the class.

5. Students can also have their parents/guardians or other family members add to the journal with their own good deeds.

Materials

5a. Good Deed Journal Page
5a. Good Deed Journal Page

What is the good deed you did today?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Why did you choose that good deed?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

How did doing your good deed make you feel?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

How did doing your good deed make the other person or people feel?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

What did you learn from doing this good deed?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

How can you share your experience or what you learned with others to encourage them to do good deeds?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
ACTIVITY 6 Appreciating Those on the Frontlines

This activity has been amended from Promoting Empathy in Schools: A Toolkit for 9/11 (K-8) that we created with Ashoka Foundation in 2017 to focus on the heroes helping our communities through the COVID-19 pandemic. Find the full toolkit here: www.911day.org

Goal: Help students practice gratitude and build imaginative capacities. This exercise can be done within the span of an hour or turned into a class project that can be done over the course of several days or weeks.

Instructions

1. Lead a group discussion:
   - Imagine what it would be like without frontline workers, first responders and other essential workers during this global pandemic. Choose a category of worker or let your students choose.
   - Discuss the invisible forces at work that make our days better or worse:
     - What happens when you stop expressing gratitude for the good people and good things in your life?
     - What happens when you express gratitude?
   - Explain that what we value grows because we invest more in it. The same is true for people: When we feel valued, we’re willing to work harder and stick with things.

2. Learn more about the crucial role that healthcare workers, first responders and other essential workers play in maintaining the health and safety of the community.
   - This may include interviews with students’ family members or friends who have these jobs, inviting a guest speaker to class, reading books about essential workers, or imagining what they might experience on the job.

3. Write and send thank you letters to healthcare workers, first responders, or other essential workers using the template included on the following page.

Materials

6a. Thank You Letter Template
6a. Thank You Letter Template

I am thankful for __________________________ (name what or who you are thankful for) because _________________ (describe the difference it makes in your life. Be specific!).

Without _________________ (name what or who you are thankful for) _________________ (then describe what things would be like without it or them). So thank you for _________________ (describe what they do and how it impacts your life and name at least two things that you can do to support them or it.)
ACTIVITY 7  Empathy Exit Ticket

This activity has been amended from Promoting Empathy in Schools: A Toolkit for 9/11 (K-8) that we created with Ashoka Foundation in 2017 to focus on the heroes that helped our communities through the COVID-19 pandemic. Find the full toolkit here: www.911day.org

Goal: Help students internalize what they’ve learned from the activities in this lesson plan. Questions about feelings and emotions can help broaden students’ ability to recognize and name their emotions and to communicate those feelings with others.

Instructions

1. Have your students create an “exit ticket” using the template below, which includes a feelings scale and tailored questions related to the social and emotional competencies of Activity 6 or any other activity in this lesson plan.
   
   In this way, you can gather valuable insights into their students’ stress levels and their ability to apply the lessons beyond the classroom.

2. After the exit ticket has been created, have a class discussion about what students learned from the exercise, how it made them feel, and what they are going to do differently in their everyday lives now?

3. Ask a few students to share their exit tickets with the class, but collect all exit tickets as the lesson ends. This will provide you with valuable data on how your students experienced the lesson on gratitude.

4. Repeat the exercise regularly to encourage continued learning. Analyze your empathy exit tickets on a weekly basis. What trends do you see? What will you do differently as a result?

Materials

7a. Exit Ticket Template
7a. Exit Ticket Template

*Designed to be used with Activity 6, Appreciating Those on the Frontlines, but can be amended to use with any of the other activities in this lesson plan.*

What’s one thing you learned from the activity about thanking frontline workers?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Do you think society could manage itself without frontline workers? Why or why not?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Did any parts of the lesson make you feel joy?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

*Create other questions that feel more tailored to your lesson goals.*
**ACTIVITY 8** Good Deed Movie at Home

*Created as an at-home activity but could also be an in-class activity.*

Goal: Provide an opportunity for students to use multimedia, like video or animation, to document their good deeds and share with others.

**Instructions**

Involving the parents or guardians of your students in the 9/11 Day activities can be really successful. Most parents welcome the opportunity to teach their children about generosity and helping others. We have provided tools for you to help encourage parental involvement in 9/11 Day.

1. Explain to your students that you’d like them to talk with their parents about helping them plan and document a good deed for 9/11 (or any day in September). You can start the process in class by helping them come up with their first idea.

2. Give each of your students the 9/11 Good Deed Student Worksheet to take home, along with the Parent/Guardian Letter, which explains 9/11 Day to parents.

3. Set multimedia parameters that are appropriate to your students’ age and ensure that all students can share their work with the classroom.
   - This activity can be an opportunity to teach the technical elements of making a movie, how to develop a script, how to shoot the best footage, how to include props, etc.
   - Also, this can be a writing assignment to create the movie script.

4. Parents can help their child load their project on a thumb drive, upload it to a shared drive or email it to you.

5. Parents and students can then share their videos on social media channels using the hashtag #911day.
9/11 Day Frequently Asked Questions

What is 9/11 Day?
A few months after the September 11 attacks, a small group of 9/11 family members and friends met to talk about how best to pay tribute to their lost loved ones. They wanted the legacy of 9/11 to be one of compassion, kindness and unity, something future generations of Americans could honor when they remembered 9/11 each year.

Today, that simple idea has grown into the largest annual day of service in the nation, now officially recognized under federal law. Each September 11, tens of millions of Americans of all ages spend time volunteering, supporting charities and performing other good deeds.

As a teacher, do I need to follow your lesson plan, or can I develop my own?
This guide is intended as a source of ideas and inspiration. You are free to use the information, modify the activities or make up completely new activities aligned with our purpose. We welcome your feedback and suggestions to make this lesson plan better next year.

Do students and families need to do their good deed on 9/11 itself?
We encourage students to either plan or perform their good deed on 9/11 and share their plans or actions on social media on 9/11 itself. That said, students can perform their good deed at any time during the month of September and beyond that too.

What if my students are too young to post their good deed on social media? How do they participate?
Students or their parents can email their good deeds to us at info@911day.org and we will add new ideas to the list of good deeds being posted on our website.

Can students do anything?
Yes. The idea is for your students to do something that has personal meaning. It can be any good deed that helps someone else, including a friend, relative, or family member. It can even include a helpful act that one does for themselves, such as quitting smoking, starting an exercise program, or even registering to vote.