9/11 DAY OBSERVANCE

OFFICIAL TEACHER’S GUIDE
INFORMATION AND IDEAS TO HELP YOU DESIGN STUDENT SERVICE PROJECTS FOR 9/11 DAY

Teachers! Win a trip to NYC to visit the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. To enter, go to: http://911day.org/NYCTrip. Deadline Sept 30.
A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS OF 9/11 DAY

Dear Teacher,

9/11 Day is the nation’s largest annual Day of Service, recognized and established under federal law. Last year nearly 30 million Americans spent time on 9/11 helping others through good deeds, including more than one million students of all ages.

This year, in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service, National Youth Leadership Council, and Teach for America, we are again providing many new lesson plans, photos and videos for your use as an educator. All are completely free! We’ve also updated some of our most popular lesson plans as well. All of them are available at 911day.org. We hope you’ll join the tens of thousands of other educators and mentors nationwide who are using these tools and others to teach children about 9/11 and empathy through service learning, in remembrance of those lost and injured.

Here are five important things to do:

1. Visit 911day.org and preview all of the materials available.
2. Watch our “Born on 9/11” videos available at https://youtube.com/c/911day
3. Invite other teachers, parents, and your students to develop their own class or individual “good deed” projects for 9/11 this year.
4. Take photos and short videos of your project in action and share on social media using #911day and #911Teacher
5. Invite other teachers to get involved too!

With your help and expertise as an educator, children will learn valuable, heartfelt, and constructive lessons about the 9/11 experience, the way tragedies impact us as people, and how people throughout the nation banded together in response to the attacks.

Thank you again for your support. For more information, please contact us at info@911day.org.

Sincerely,

David Paine and Jay Winuk, co-founders, 9/11 Day
TAKE THE 9/11 GOOD DEED PLEDGE.

September 11 is a day when we learn and pay tribute by doing good deeds. Through our deeds and charitable service activities, we honor in a constructive way the victims of the 2001 terrorist attacks, help to rekindle a spirit of unity in America, and pay tribute to the many who rose in service in response to the attacks – our firefighters and EMTs, public safety officers, rescue and recovery workers, volunteers, and also our men and women in the armed forces.

Individuals and schools can participate in any fashion they want – any good deed counts. So this can include almost any project or activity that involves helping others in need. Even young children can think of things they can do. Like making their bed, helping a friend with homework, or cleaning up the house. Parents can participate as well by purchasing supplies for the classrooms, volunteering as a teacher’s aide, or reading a book to a child.

This year for 9/11, we are inviting you and your students to pledge to do a good deed for 9/11, and describe what it will be.

LEARNING FROM AND ABOUT 9/11.

September 11 will always be, first and foremost, a day when we remember those lost and injured in the 2001 terrorist attacks, and pay tribute to the many who rose in service in response to the attacks – our firefighters and EMTs, public safety officers, rescue and recovery workers, volunteers, and also our men and women in the armed forces. We engage in good deeds and other charitable activity in tribute to them. We encourage you, at your discretion and based on the age group of your students, to incorporate some aspects of remembrance as part of your program.

People often ask why 9/11 Day is also about promoting unity and putting aside differences. Anyone who was alive when 9/11 happened knows the answer: The 9/11 attacks brought America together in a way not seen since World War II. In a moment, whatever differences may have existed between people throughout the country were instantly dissolved and rendered trivial compared to what we all had in common – our fundamental compassion and concern for the well-being of others. We became a nation of people bonded together by the universal human spirit of goodness that lives in virtually all of us. For a brief period of time, we had the rare opportunity to view each other as neighbors, not as strangers, and we experienced briefly what our society might be like if we worked more closely together to solve our problems.
It was a remarkable and important moment that we hope to preserve in perpetuity in tribute to the 9/11 victims and others, expressed in this way:

On the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, as a way to pay tribute to, and remember the victims and others we wish to honor, we put aside whatever differences we may have at the moment, and work together to help others in need. That is the annual ritual, a fitting and appropriate gift to the many that lost their lives and the countless others who were injured or came to the aid or defense of those in need.

The goal of the 9/11 Day EDUCATION program is to inspire students to perform good deeds personally or as a group as part of a lesson plan about 9/11.

Here are a few suggestions to keep in mind.

1. We have found that projects work best if students can support and monitor a cause over a period of time. The good deed or cause they choose need not to be connected to a charitable organization. It can be personal, such as helping family members or neighbors in some way, or writing letters to first responders in the community. You may also decide to create a group project, in which the entire class selects a single cause it intends to support for the day or, preferably, for an extended period of time. This effort can be part of “Semester of Service” learning programs that are presently available through select nonprofit national service organizations. You can visit 911day.org to find links to many of these helpful organizations.

2. In addition to the free lesson plans we offer, many of our partners have outstanding education materials, which can also be found at 911day.org. When you register to use these materials, you will be able to make and distribute copies, at no cost or obligation, to other teachers and students as long as the intended use is educational and not for any commercial purpose or financial gain.

3. Find projects that leverage the educational skills you are seeking to develop in your students.

4. Whenever possible involve your students’ families. Families can be a great source of volunteers, encouragement, and resources. If possible send the Parent’s Guide home with your children.

Thank you for your support in the classroom!
For more information and additional resources, please email us at info@911day.org.