



Fire Safety Canvassing

What it is This is an event in which your club members will group together to distribute lifesaving fire safety information, American Red Cross news and the youth brochure to residents of local neighborhoods and businesses.

How it helps The Red Cross responds to more home fires than any other type of disaster, helping the victims of over 170 fires a day. Spreading the message of fire safety can help prevent fires and reduce this number. You are helping to keep people safe, and that's a crucial responsibility!

Get started The first step to holding this activity is to get in touch with your local Red Cross chapter or Service to the Armed Forces station. Your chapter can provide you with the information that you will be handing out to the community and the do's and don'ts of canvassing. After talking to the chapter, here are three steps to kick off your event:

- 1** Get a group of your club members committed to this canvassing project. Have everyone read over the fire safety information so that they are knowledgeable when communicating with residents.
- 2** Set a time frame for your group to canvass. The Red Cross has a fire safety campaign around the Martin Luther King Day of Service in January, but any time is great to do this activity! Whatever time of year you choose, use the Tracking Worksheet in the resources box to measure your impact.
- 3** Decide on a neighborhood in which to target your efforts. Talk with your chapter and local fire department about visiting areas that may have recently experienced a fire. You should check with your chapter about any city canvassing restrictions that are in place, as these may limit where you can go and what you can do. Venture out to local businesses in addition to neighborhoods. Remember, fires can happen anywhere!

**Want more information?
Email us!**

youthinvolvement@redcross.org

DID YOU KNOW?

**65% of home
fire deaths
occur in homes
without a working
smoke alarm.**

What next?

There's not too much left other than to go out and spread the word about fire safety. Speaking of safety, keep a few things in mind as your group canvasses:

- Canvass in groups of at least three and only in the daylight.
- Don't go into people's homes. All of your group should remain outside.
- Be sure that everyone has appropriate identification. Let people know that you're with the Red Cross!
- Talk with your chapter about other liability and safety concerns.

Now that your target neighborhood is up to speed on fire safety, try turning your canvassing groups into a monthly commitment. You can hand out earthquake, hurricane or tornado-safety information if these disasters are common in your community, or simply tell residents about volunteer opportunities with the Red Cross. Each time you go, use the tracking worksheet to report how many homes you visited and how much information you shared. You should also check out the other available activity guides so you can stay involved with the Red Cross.

Before beginning, get in touch with your local Red Cross chapter or station for assistance. You can find contact information at **redcross.org**.

SHAKE IT UP!

- » Turn the event into a competition between groups to see who can reach the most people.
- » Morale boosts are fun! Have a pre- or post-canvassing party with hot chocolate and baked goods.

SHOW AND TELL

- » Download the Red Cross preparedness apps and share them with your friends and family! Go to **redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps**.
- » Share your pictures and videos of your Preparedness Week by sending them to **youthinvolvement@redcross.org**.
- » Do you know about Schooltube? Share a video of your Preparedness Week at **schooltube.com!** Include the name of the activity in the title of your video.

RESOURCES

- » Tracking worksheet
- » Fire safety talking points