



# Helping Hands

**What it is** Helping Hands is a service-based, group-fundraising event that allows community members to use your group to perform various outdoor tasks for a small fee. While serving, your group will share American Red Cross information about home safety and preparedness.

**How it helps** This activity gives you the opportunity to raise funds for Red Cross services, and allows members of your group to give back to the community while sharing important safety information. The money you make from this activity will go towards services, such as sheltering people affected by disaster, preparedness education and helping people who have lost everything in a house fire to get a new start.

**Get started** The first step in holding any Red Cross-related activity is to contact your local American Red Cross chapter or Service to the Armed Forces station. Chapter staff will be happy to provide resources that will make this activity easier. Helping Hands is a relatively simple activity—there are only three steps you need to complete for a successful fundraiser:

- 1** Decide the details of your fundraiser. Choose one day to do the projects, a time, and some tasks that your club is willing to do. You should also determine pricing for your group's services. For example, you may choose to charge \$10 for one hour or \$15 for a car wash.
- 2** Spread the word about Helping Hands. Your schools, churches, parents' places of work and neighbors are sources of support. If you are on a college campus, contact your school's housing to make an announcement to students living in dorms. This event could be a big hit with your college peers.
- 3** Determine the supplies that you may need for each service. For example, if raking leaves at someone's home, you will need a rake and trash bags. Make sure that the homeowner has the tools, or find a way to secure them from someone you know.

Want more information?  
Email us!

[youthinvolvement@redcross.org](mailto:youthinvolvement@redcross.org)

## DID YOU KNOW?

**In 2011, the Red Cross responded to nearly 63,000 fires, nearly 2,000 floods and more than 520 tornadoes.**

## What next?

Helping Hands is a group activity, so assign your club members to groups of at least three. In addition, you should keep all the projects outside of people's homes. Tasks like trimming bushes, washing cars, cleaning windows or picking weeds are great ideas. Assign each group one project to complete on the day of Helping Hands. When doing the services, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Since you'll be working outdoors, be sure that all students have plenty of water to avoid dehydration.
- For safety purposes, do not enter someone's home. Stay outside.
- Go over some of the items from the Preparedness Fact Sheets page with the person who requested your team's services. Download and print the sheets for the topics that are most appropriate to your area. Sharing helpful information is a big part of this event.
- While you're sharing safety information, let people know about other fundraisers or activities the Red Cross may be doing. If they wanted to help this time, chances are they will help again.

Helping Hands is a great way to give back to your community while raising money to support the services of the Red Cross. After completing this fundraiser, you can take a look at our other Activity Guides for awesome ways to keep your group involved.

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!

- » Partner with other student organizations to increase your impact.
- » Sign up with your chapter to become a Disaster Action Team volunteer and help respond to home fires.

### 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 fundraiser at **schooltube.com**! Include the name of the activity in the title of your video.

### Resources

- » Preparedness Fact Sheets
- » Helping Hands Flyer