We all have something we are passionate about. Why not take what you love to do and use it to help others?

Whether it’s your day job or not, you can help make your community a better place. We’ve put together a list of ideas to help you get started. You might be surprised to hear all the different ways you can serve the people around you!

1. **Ask**
   Do you know a public servant? Ask them questions about what they do: What do they enjoy most about their job? What are some challenges they face? What inspired them to enter their field?

2. **Visit**
   Get a group of friends together and spend time chatting with elderly folks at a retirement home. You’ll make their day!

3. **Go on a field trip**
   Call your local firehouse, hospital, or police station and ask if you can take a tour of their building and equipment. Most public servants would love to be your tour guide!

4. **Donate**
   Got clothes or toys you no longer use? Donate them to families who need them, through a local charity or a national organization like The Salvation Army or Goodwill Industries.

5. **Help**
   Ask your elderly neighbors if they need help shoveling snow, mowing the lawn, or doing small house repairs.

6. **Mentor**
   Tutor kids who are struggling in school, or join a mentoring program for at-risk youth (such as Big Brother Big Sister or a similar local program).
7. Organize
Ask a doctor, firefighter, teacher, or police officer if they’d be willing to give a special presentation at your homeschool co-op or event. This is a great way to spread the word and get people interested in service.

8. Get certified
You never know when you’re going to need to use CPR or First Aid. Take a class, get certified, and (potentially) save a life.

9. Campaign
Make a difference in the political process by knocking on doors for a local candidate or just encouraging your friends to vote! Programs like Generation Joshua’s Student Action Teams make it easy to get involved.

10. Speak
Go to a public meeting and speak out on an issue you are passionate about.

11. Clean up
Instead of walking past that empty can lying on the sidewalk, pick it up and throw it away. You can even organize a group to pick up trash around town or clean up debris from along the riverbank.

12. Volunteer
Serve at a soup kitchen, food bank, or homeless shelter in your area. National organizations like Youth Volunteer Corps, American Red Cross, and Meals on Wheels also provide a variety of opportunities for volunteering.

“Not everybody has to be an emergency responder. We all can do something to make our communities a better place.” —Christopher T.

Careers
If you think that a career in public service is in your future, the absolute best thing you can do is volunteer in the field you’re interested in. There is no substitute for hands-on learning experiences.

Want to be a police officer? Ride along in a police cruiser, and ask if you can volunteer at the station. Want to be a teacher? Ask about volunteering at your local school. Want to run for office? Volunteer for a local political campaign. Get your foot in the door; you never know when it might swing wide open.

Learn more at hslda.org/homeschoolhelpers