



GUIDELINES

First Lady Maria Lee's 6th Annual Tennessee Kids Serve Summer Challenge

WHAT?

First Lady Maria Lee invites all Tennessee elementary students (grades: rising K – rising 6) to participate in the statewide Tennessee Kids Serve Summer Challenge. The goal of this challenge is to instill in kids a heart for service and ask them to join the First Lady in devoting a small portion of their summer break to serving others.

The challenge will start on **Saturday, June 1, 2024**, and conclude on **Thursday, August 1, 2024**.

HOW?

To complete the challenge, a child must complete a service activity from at least *two* of the eight service categories provided and a minimum of *two* service hours. Suggested service projects are provided for each category, but participants are not required to select a project from the given list in order to complete the category. Creativity is highly encouraged!

Each week, the First Lady will highlight a service category on social media and in her email newsletter. Kids can follow along and complete an activity from the category she focuses on each week, or they can complete each category in the order and timeframe that works best for the child and family.

Upon registering for the challenge, families will receive additional information and a service log. Parents or guardians will need to help their child fill out the required service log and return it to the Office of the First Lady by **Friday, August 9, 2024**. This year, parents also have the option of filling out the service log online at www.tn.gov/firstlady/kids/service-log.

RECOGNITION

All students who complete the challenge will receive a certificate of recognition signed by First Lady Maria Lee. The top participants of the challenge will receive an invitation to a carnival celebration on **Saturday, September 7, 2024**, at the Tennessee Residence with Governor Bill Lee and First Lady Maria Lee to honor their hard work!

Find what your child can expect at the Summer Challenge carnival [here](#).

To REGISTER for the Tennessee Kids Serve Summer Challenge, visit:

www.tn.gov/firstlady/kids



SCAN ME



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First Lady Maria Lee



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#TNKidsServe

Tennessee Kids Serve Challenge Categories

Summer Challenge Guidelines:

- 1) Challenge participants must complete a service activity from at least *two* of the eight categories and a minimum of *two* service hours during the challenge.
- 2) Challenge participants must submit their completed service log along with photos of the child serving to the Office of the First Lady by **Friday, August 9, 2024.**

Below are examples of service activities for each category; however, you are not limited to these examples. Please feel free to get creative and come up with your own service project ideas!

Category 1: Show kindness to the elderly

Examples:

- Ask a local nursing home to pair you with a resident who would enjoy a pen pal and exchange letters.
- Offer to help an elderly neighbor with outdoor chores like mowing, watering plants, or washing their car.
- Share your talents with a local senior center by putting on a concert or talent show.

Category 2: Feed the hungry

Examples:

- Volunteer with a nonprofit in your community to help serve a meal to those experiencing homelessness.
- Place a donation box on your porch. Let your neighbors know you are collecting goods for a local food pantry.
- Pack snack bags for children who receive assistance at food banks. Ask your local food bank what to include in the bags!

Category 3: Care for kids and families in your community

Examples:

- Decorate newborn onesies and donate them to a pregnancy center or nonprofit that supports new moms and babies.
- Create and donate a Family Kit through the Ronald McDonald House for sick kids in the hospital and their families. You could create a spa kit, movie night kit, kids' activity kit, or come up with your own creative idea.
- Bring cookies or a potted plant to a new family in your neighborhood.

Category 4: Honor veterans and first responders

Examples:

- Offer to help your local fire department with cleaning or chores. You may even get to help wash a firetruck!
- Host a cookie drive with friends and deliver cookies to your local firefighters and policemen together – and be sure to tell them thank you!
- Clean headstones and place flowers or flags at your local veteran's cemetery.

Category 5: Serve those who serve

Examples:

- Write letters of gratitude to members of the military or first responders to send through Operation Gratitude or a similar organization.
- Make a video for a teacher letting them know you are thankful for them and have a parent help you send it to brighten their summer!

Category 6: Support foster kids and families

Examples:

- Order supplies to make a TAKPAK for a child entering foster care with Tennessee Alliance for kids.
- Drop off snacks at the local DCS office to encourage staff.
- Invite a foster child you know to a day of fun with your family at the library, the zoo, or the swimming pool.

Category 7: Beautify your neighborhood

Examples:

- Volunteer to help with the yardwork at a local women's shelter or senior center.
- Pick up trash around your neighborhood or at a local park.
- Start a free lending library on your street with gently used books from your collection to share with neighbors.

Category 8: Free Choice/Random Acts of Kindness

Use your creativity to serve a cause you are passionate about. You can repeat one of the activities listed above or use your creativity to meet a need for a person or cause you care about.

Examples:

- Keep cold waters and snacks in the car to give to unhoused individuals.
- Hold a lemonade stand or car wash to raise funds and donate the proceeds to your favorite non-profit.
- Visit the **Tennessee Serves volunteer portal** online at <https://voltnhq.galaxydigital.com/> to find a volunteer opportunity in your area that sounds fun to you!



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