

KARSP Community Service Projects

Project Name	Work Involved	Purpose	Examples
Community Service Hours	Unit members estimate/record their community service hours from, May to April. Or from Jan. thru December. Unit President or Community Service Chair report in May to KARSP – by May 20 th with numbers for the previous 12 months. (any twelve month period)	Provides a basis for KARSP recognition program every year. Provides evidence to legislators & communities about our involvement, provided it is not kept a secret.	Publicize with story & photo of recognition. Refer to the chart on the back KARSP recognition programs. Letters to the editor, letters to legislators, etc.
Collections For Kansans	The Unit determines a community need and collects goods or money to meet that need. The donations could be at one site, or for one person or many. The collection could be monthly, yearly, whatever fits the unit schedule.	Meets a community need. Allows all members, even ones with little energy, to be involved in community action.	Scholarships, canned goods, clothes, toothbrushes, school supplies, pet supplies, soap for shelters, etc.
With Our Youth! (Coordinates with NRTA)	Individual members work directly with youth. The unit selects a youth project that meets a community need.	Meets a community <u>youth</u> need. Could meet some of the 5 goals of <i>America's Promise</i> . Allows members to continue working with youth.	Tutoring, helping in schools, spelling bees, tour guides, mentoring, book selections, reading, listening to readers, music lessons, etc.
Cookie Tray Project (Donuts, cookies, some goodies for all)	The Unit buys or donates goodies to deliver to the schools for the faculty and staff along with a note of appreciation.	Recognizes and rewards the classroom teachers and school personnel. Connects our units to the schools and to possible members.	McPherson's Cookie Tray Project.
AARP Day of Service / Remembrance Day (Usually the second Thursday in May)	Unit members visit and/or bring items to shut-ins in their homes, or in assisted living, or nursing homes. Be sure to involve the activity directors to the facilities in your plans.	Remember those who are shut in – helps them know they aren't forgotten. This gives them more contact with people. Your unit's shut-ins would appreciate being remembered in some way. Just a short visit would mean a lot to someone with mobility issues. You don't have to limit your visits to unit members. Anyone in your community is eligible.	Plan a short visit. Plan a popcorn, fresh fruit, pie, or cookie social. Bring small plant cuttings, small toiletries, small mirrors and pictures, greeting cards, flowers, etc.

Recognition for KARSP members and units

Award	Type	Given by	Criteria	Deadline
National Chapter & Unit CS Award (Certificate & pin)	Individual/ couple	National AARP/NRTA	Must have done outstanding work in a unit sponsored project. Unit nominates one member per year. Sent to National AARP. One each year per unit. <i>(Send a copy to L. Wheeler)</i>	January 31 (usually)
With Our Youth! (NRTA Certificate)	Unit	KARSP & NRTA	Report to KARSP on youth activities/youth hours.	May 20
Unit Service Award (Certificate)	Individual	KARSP	Has done the most volunteer hours in the unit. Form sent to KARSP.	May 20
Distinguished Service Award (Certificate)	Individual	KARSP	Units report to KARSP listing members (& their hours) who have more than 900 volunteer hours. Categories: more than 900, 1200, 1500, 2000 hours of volunteer time.	May 20
Outstanding Unit (\$30.00 check)	Unit	KARSP	Highest number of community service hours per member, reported by unit.	May 20
NRTA With Our Youth! (crystal award; Little Red wagon from <i>America's Promise</i>)	Unit/ Individual or state project	NRTA	Outstanding work with youth. Units send application directly to NRTA. They then select from 5-9 of the best for national recognition. A state, unit, or individual project is eligible. <i>(Send a COPY to KARSP Community Service Chair also.)</i>	June 8 (approximately- check their Website)
Meadowlark Award (Certificate & pin)	Individual or couple	KARSP	Lifetime of service in a project that meets a need in the community. One individual or couple per unit.	May 20
Sunflower Award (Certificate & pin)	Individual	KARSP	Has done community service in spite of a hardship - serious family or personal illness, or disability.	May 20
Andrus Award (Plaque & pin)	Individual or couple	AARP One per state.	Have made a powerful difference in their communities in ways that support AARP's vision, and strategic direction and that inspire others to volunteer.	June 30 (usually)