



10 FREE AND SIMPLE WAYS FOR STUDENTS TO CONNECT, SUPPORT AND VOLUNTEER



By Natalie Rogovin
Director of Service Learning
& Civic Engagement
The Paideia School
Atlanta, GA



Teach. The responsibility of schooling now rests largely on parents, leaving many tired and seeking content for their kids. Offer a virtual lesson to a family or neighbor you know. For example, you can read to students, teach them magic tricks or provide a lesson on the value of paper money and coins. The ideas are endless! Stuck? Try Pinterest!

Support Healthcare Workers.

Research or start a neighborhood “shout out” to health care workers. You can also make signs to hang in your windows.



Send Birthday Cards. Contact a local elementary school, PTA or neighborhood group (schools are closed but staff are still on email) to connect you with parents whose children are having birthdays. Create a sign up to have birthday cards written for their children.

Write Letters to People Who are Confined to Bed Contact your local hospital or senior care facility and ask them if and how you can send messages to patients. Some may have email access and some may allow you to mail cards,



Cook a Meal. Look for local non-profits have stayed open to continue to serve the community. Many need meals or sandwiches for their clients. If everyone in your house is healthy and practicing responsible social distancing, consider cooking a meal at your own home and delivering it.

Spread Awareness. Continue to support causes and issues you are passionate about; find or start petitions that you can sign and promote on social media.

Contact local, state and federal representatives via email, telephone or letter and reach out to them about your position.

Host a Virtual Voter Registration Drive.

Look for organizations who promote voter registration or connect with your state's voter registration page. Spread the word by checking in with friends or family members to see if they are registered. Just remember, registration varies by state, so be sure to send them the correct information.

Network With Neighbors. Help your neighborhood become more connected and supportive. Create an email chain or facebook group that neighbors can use to share information with each other. Make a flyer with instructions on the meaning of the group and how to join. Leave on mailboxes or doorsteps.

Digital advocate. Connect with both national and local non-profits who you have volunteered with in the past or who serve a mission important to you and your community. Follow them on social media and encourage others to follow as well. Share their stories and engage with them. If they don't have a very active social media, offer your services!

Research. There are lots more great ideas out there, so research away and see what others have come up with. Some national non-profits have created guides and project ideas. Perhaps you even have some of your own ideas!

