

Campus-Wide Service Events

- *Homecoming Day of Service* -- combining school spirit and the spirit of giving
- *Make a Difference Day* -- the largest national day of helping others
- *MLK Day of Service* -- "A Day On, Not a Day Off"
- *National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week Service Project*
- *Relay for Life* -- an event to raise awareness and funds for the American Cancer Society
- *Women's History Month Service Project*
- *Tuck River Cleanup*

Alternative Breaks

Many students who are in search of a way to travel, learn, and participate in worthwhile activities during the college breaks sign up for an "Alternative Break" trip. During these trips, participants perform short-term, community-based service projects and engage with members of communities with whom they would typically have little or no contact. WCU organizes domestic and sometimes international Alternative Breaks in the Fall and Spring semesters.

For more information, please contact:

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**Western
Carolina**
UNIVERSITY

**Community
Service**

Connecting Campus & Community

Opportunities

FOR STUDENTS

What is Community Service?

A large number of students, faculty, & staff at WCU regularly engage in community service projects – volunteering their time and resources to benefit the greater community. Community service can include activities such as serving meals at local food pantries, mentoring students in local public schools, donating time to crisis hotlines, and helping at events for local charity organizations.

What is Service Learning?

Service learning incorporates community service into students' academic coursework. It is designed to provide an arena for the practical application of classroom education; additionally, structured reflection allows students to develop a greater understanding of larger social, political, and environmental issues.

Who does Community Service?

Anyone at WCU can perform community service. There are a wide variety of opportunities to be involved in the community – everyone can find activities that appeal to their personality and interests.

What are the benefits of volunteering?

- Increases awareness of community issues
- Strengthens connections to our communities and region
- Builds a better understanding of career options
- Develops and improves skills
- Provides opportunities to build friendships
- Gives a sense of personal satisfaction

How can I get involved?

There are many clubs and organizations on campus that organize community service events and activities. You may also choose to volunteer as an individual with a local organization or as a participant in our Days of Service. Other options include serving as an NC-ACTS! Fellow, or – if you are eligible for Federal Work-Study – as a Catamount Student Service Corps member or an America Reads/America Counts tutor.

Where can I do my service?

Here is a sampling of our Community Partners:

- American Cancer Society
- American Red Cross
- Appalachian Homestead Farm
- Asheville Parks & Recreation
- AWAKE, Inc.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western North Carolina, Inc.
- Cashiers-Highlands Humane Society
- Cashiers Historical Society
- Catman 2, Inc.
- Community Health Link
- Community Table
- Full Spectrum Farms
- Golden Age Senior Center
- Harris Regional Hospital
- Haywood County Meals on Wheels
- Healing Place (Hendersonville)
- Jackson County Dept of Social Services
- Jackson County 4-H
- Jackson County Habitat for Humanity
- Jackson County Public Library
- Kids in Action
- March of Dimes
- Mountain Mediation Services
- Mountain Trace Nursing Center
- Project C.A.R.E.
- Project F.I.R.E.
- Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center
- Special Olympics of North Carolina
- United Christian Ministries of Jackson County
- Western NC Nature Center