



Yale Day of Service

What is the Yale Day of Service?

Every year since 2009, the Association of Yale Alumni (AYA) has designated the second Saturday of May as the Yale Day of Service (YDoS). Then alumni volunteer leaders for regional clubs work together with AYA, an alumni Chairperson of YDoS and (alumni) Regional Directors of YDoS – along with shared interest groups, segments of classes and local chapters of professional and graduate school alumni organizations to plan local community service projects for that one day. Projects range from helping to paint a community day care to serving food at soup kitchens for the poor, from cleaning trash out of a local stream to preparing food packages for the needy at local food banks, and much more. Sometimes a group of Yale alumni will organize their own special project. In 2012, the Day of Service involved 3500 members of the Yale community volunteering in nearly 250 sites in 40 states and 20 countries. On the Day of Service, alumni all over the world come together, with family, friends, and neighbors – separately and as Yale united – through the common act of providing service to others in need.

A Benefit to Yale

Participation in the Day of Service reconnects many alumni to Yale -- many who were not otherwise engaged in alumni programs. It also introduces many communities to Yale, or at least to another side of Yale. This promotes Yale's image -- and its ability to attract the best and brightest students.

A Long Tradition of Service

Based on Yale's long tradition of service, the Yale Day of Service began as a pilot program in 2008 and was then implemented in full in 2009. For today's alumni, this tradition often starts with student-led community-based programs that many engage in while at Yale (often under the auspices of Dwight Hall). It extends to the many Yale alumni who engage in life long careers at the highest levels of government service. Yale alumni have risen to the challenge to 'change the world,' and indeed many are doing just that as volunteers for Yale, or in their professional lives in the nonprofit sector, or serving on boards of foundations, or as elected officials, or by giving of their intelligence and creative energy to volunteer community projects.



Denver-Columbine Tree Planting

A Benefit to Clubs

Perhaps one of the most interesting outcomes is the way in which it has appealed to so many alumni who had never before participated in Yale alumni activities. This program can help to bring new energy to local Yale clubs by attracting alumni who have not previously been engaged with Yale or their local Yale Clubs. And, by bringing in new people as part of the YDoS planning process, additional volunteer leadership can be developed for local clubs.