



# Service Learning Opportunities

## First Nine Weeks

**\*HOTC ...** October 22, 2022 "Hands on Thomas County Day!" This event will begin at 9:00 am and end at 12:00 pm. \*Events will be outdoors throughout the community. Students can sign up on the Hands on Thomas County website or through their MERIT teams. **SAVE THE DATE!** Please visit the website for updates on service and donation opportunities. There are so many ways to serve! **[Handsonthomascounty.org](http://Handsonthomascounty.org)**

**\*Thomas County Humane Society ...** Students will be allowed to donate treats and distribute them to the animals, following a volunteer training session. The session dates and times are published on their website on the events page. ([Thomasvillehumane.org](http://Thomasvillehumane.org)) The training session is required before the students can volunteer. Feel free to donate a bag of dog food for 3 hours of credit. They use Hill Science Diet food. It can be purchased from the Tractor Supply Company. Treat boxes/bags will equal one half hour each. They can be turned in to Mrs. Studdard or donated directly to the Humane Society. Please take a service learning form with you as you train or volunteer. The staff there will be happy to sign the forms.

**\*MERIT League of Good Neighbors ...** MERIT students may volunteer to clean/ mow the lawn or complete outside chores of a person who may find it difficult to complete chores on their own. Hopefully, MERIT students can identify needs within their own neighborhoods. They are encouraged to wear MERIT team t-shirts while working! Please have the neighbor in need sign the SL volunteer form.

**\*Miss Kitty's ...**

Does your middle or high schooler need volunteer hours? Are they kitten lovers? Foster families are sometimes needed for a few weeks. No out of pocket vet care expenses. Just dedication to show these babies lots of love, petting, and cuddles. A bedroom is a great closed location where they can just hang out together. In 3-4 weeks, their job will be to socialize the kittens, so they will be ready for the adoption program through Miss Kitty's. Give Miss Kitty a call if your family is interested. (229-236-0167)

**\*Treehouse ... A list of needed supplies , along with hour values, will be shared with MERIT families and teachers. Items can be taken directly to The Treehouse location or turned into your child’s homeroom teacher. <http://treehousethomasville.org/> Please see below for needed items. For every 10 items ONE hour of service credit will be given. Each Decorated Box with donated items will be worth 5 hours of credit.**

Toiletry Items for Care Bags

(shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush/paste, brushes, lotion, body spray, soap)

Everything Else





Clothing/Underwear (all ages/genders)	Copy Paper	Wipes
Shoes/Socks (all ages/genders)	File Folders	Backpacks
Crayons/Markers/Colored Pencils	Paper Towels	Bottled Water/Drinks
Blank DVDs (for interview recording)	Cleaning Supplies	Toys/Treasure Chest Items
Clipboards	Ziploc Bags	Toilet Tissue/Facial Tissue
	Snacks	Diapers/Pull-Ups (all sizes)
	Stuffed Animals	

**Birthday Box:**

- Each box will be coordinated through Treehouse staff to ensure boxes are personalized with the child's interests and preferences.
- Ensure each box contains: cake mix, icing, streamers, table covers, plates, napkins, utensils, balloons, and a birthday card.
- Items will be packaged in a small 15"x12"x10" cardboard box that will be decorated to bring cheer upon opening.
- Decorative creativity is strongly encouraged and ideas can be found on Pinterest. This is the perfect opportunity to include favorite colors, characters, pop-up banners, etc. on the flaps of the box.

**Important:**

- Estimated time to complete 1 batch of boxes is 4 weeks.
- Birthday cards are allowed. Please do not sign your name.
- Leave boxes open, not sealed.
- Boxes are due by the specified deadline.
- Please stay in touch with your MERIT Coordinator.

**Ronald MacDonald House ... Students can donate a quart zip lock bag full of soda can tabs. Each bag is equal to 1 hour. Students may turn them into their homeroom teachers or Mrs. Studdard.**

**Hands and Hearts for Horses ...** Volunteers assist with many aspects of horse care, from grooming and tacking horses for lessons to bringing in and turning out horses before and after rides. For volunteers who don't mind going above and beyond, there are always stalls to be mucked, water buckets to be filled, and horses to be bathed! Please visit the website to get started with the application process. [info@handsandheartsforhorses.com](mailto:info@handsandheartsforhorses.com)

**Thomasville Center for the Arts ...** MERIT students may volunteer at publicized events.

### **Second Harvest**

Help fight hunger with **Second Harvest**. **Volunteers are needed every Tuesday – Thursday between 3 pm – 5 pm** . You will sort, organize, and pack food pantry boxes that will later be distributed to local families and seniors in need.

This is a busy, warehouse environment recommended for ages 10 and up only. Volunteers under 16 must be accompanied by an adult volunteer. Being able to stand for periods of time, and lift potentially heavy items required.

This is a no-frills service opportunity. **Please bring anything you will need to be comfortable, and wear appropriate attire and closed-toe shoes.**

### **Lost Creek Forest**

The Friends of Lost Creek Forest are looking for volunteers to help with maintaining the Cherokee Lake Pollinator Garden on Monday evenings at 7:00pm and on Saturday mornings at 9:00am. You can learn about native plants and pollinators, and spend time with others in a great outdoor environment. Learn more about the Friends of Lost Creek Forest by visiting their Facebook Page at [facebook.com/LostCreekForest/](https://facebook.com/LostCreekForest/) or by visiting the website at <https://lostcreekforest.weebly.com>

### **Great Georgia Pollinator**

The 2022 Georgia Pollinator Count, a citizen science project created by the University of Georgia, will be held on August 19th and 20th. This project is designed for everyone to participate and make a difference in pollinator conservation! Email a photo to your homeroom teacher so they can sign your service form.