

Graduation Project Idea Bank
2007-08

<i>Category</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Possible Resources</i>
Careers	Job shadow a media person	How do they put together the DPS Channel 4 broadcasts? What types of events and "news" would the district's media team handle in a day...a week or longer? What else do they do that students may not know?	Kay or Michael in the Public Relations Dept at Fuller; contact the faculty member in charge of school broadcasts at your high school
Careers	Job shadow a central office administrator	find out what district personnel do to support what happens in our schools..."shadow" a district coordinator or supervisor, etc.	Consult with your school principal FIRST before making a "cold" contact with a central office administrator; gather information on the career from your high school Media Center or the Public Library
Careers	Job shadow a dentist	Considering a career in dentistry? Follow a dentist or volunteer in a dentist's office to see what it's all about. Share your experience in the grad. Project.	Local dentists; UNC Dental School; PTSA (to contact parents in the field)
Careers	Job shadow a medical doctor	There are so many possibilities in the field of medicine. Follow a medical doctor or volunteer at a medical facility or clinic to learn more about this career. Share your experience in the graduation project.	PTSA (to contact parents in the field); contact local medical schools or clinics for volunteer opportunities or contact persons; Check the print or online versions of the OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK for career info.
Careers	Job shadow a sports trainer	Athletes must be in good shape to perform well in the "game". Learn how to support the coaches and players by providing training tips and some basic first aid. Demonstrate your skills on the sidelines during a high school game	Sports trainer at your site; contact a local college athletic department to seek a mentor or learn more about this career; follow a trainer at a local fitness center; e-mail sports writers in the local newspapers for additional "leads"

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Careers	Job shadow a web page designer	See what web page design entails! Spend some time working with a designer	
Careers	School Store Volunteer	Volunteer at the school store and learn about marketing; supply & demand and hone your math skills while performing a service	School Store/Marketing Teacher; Administration
Community Service	After-school volunteer	Work with a local elementary school to volunteer in their after school program...help the kids with craft, snacks, homework or other activities...coordinate a game or other activity	Administrator at the school; after-care supervisors or DPS coordinator of after school programs
Community Service	Exceptional Children or ESL Student Mentor	Help a classmate complete a project, organize his/her notebook or study for a test. Some of your classmates would love to have another student help them.	EC Teacher; ESL Coordinator; Classroom Teacher
Community Service	Clothing Drive Volunteer	Establish a clothing drive for underprivileged youngsters...gather "gently used" gloves, scarves, coats, etc. and arrange to give them away	Local church; Homeless Center; Urban Ministries of Durham (http://www.umdurham.org/)

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Community Service	Durham Volunteer	Help out during one of the local city wide events, i.e., Centerfest, the Great Human Race, Festival on the Eno, Durham Blues Festival, holiday festivities, etc.	Volunteer Center of Durham
Community Service	Host a visiting student	Host families are needed to support students visiting our schools each semester/year. If you family is a host family, it may be your grad. Project!	Coordinator of visiting students at your school
Community Service	<i>Lend-a-Hand</i> volunteer	Offer to help a senior citizen complete "jobs" around the house--rake leaves; paint a deck; move furniture, etc. or work with a senior family to coordinate errands, etc.	contact the local Senior Center; Local churches, etc. to make contacts
Community Service	Literacy volunteer	Have a magazine or book drive and supply reading materials to local senior centers, nursing homes or hospitals	

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Community Service	Literacy volunteer	Read to elementary children at local schools or the public library; work with public library staff to sponsor a reading event; design giveaway bookmarks, etc.	Contact your school Media Coordinator, District Coordinator of Media, or the Public Library staff
Community Service	Mayor's Youth Summer Work Program	Serve your local community and simultaneously earn a check!!	Go to: http://www.durhamnc.gov/mayor/youth_program.cfm
Community Service	Operation Christmas Box Volunteer	Children in many countries get very little for Christmas. Work with others to coordinate Operation Christmas box...small gift items in a shoe box for a child.	
Community Service	Organize a canned food drive for the local food bank	Make an effort to help those who rely on the local food bank for meals. Organize the drive in your school or community	Contact the local food bank for further information

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Community Service	Prom & Graduation Volunteer	Help unfortunate students at your school prepare for the prom and graduation. Help gather used prom dresses and/or tuxedos...coordinate "robes for Riverside" to help students who cannot afford to purchase a graduation robes	Senior class advisor; Prom Advisor; Student government; Kayla's Closet (This is a local clearing house for used prom dresses. The contacts are Pat Radack - 919-452-3416 or Wendy Evans - 919-313-3428)
Community Service	Ronald McDonald House Tab collections	coordinate a soda tab collection drive to help raise funds for the House	
Community Service	Ronald McDonald House Volunteer	Help the residents of the Durham Ronald McDonald house with errands; entertain the young house residents or otherwise help the inhabitants living a stressful time for them and loved ones	Local Ronald McDonald House staff
Community Service	Ronald McDonald House Volunteer	work with others to gather items needed by House residents--trial size items; detergents; lotions, etc.	

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Community Service	School beautification project volunteer	Help beautify your school campus and use it as your project...help plant trees or maintain planting beds; pick up trash, etc...	School's Botany class teacher; Administrator or Custodial staff Supervisor???
Community Service	Senior Center Volunteer	work with Center staff to plan fun activities for seniors	
Community Service	Share a book	Volunteer to read "easy" books aloud (on tape) to create audiobooks for students who are visually impaired. If you are technologically able, try burning an audio CD of your reading or a DVD for others to enjoy	Media Coordinator; EC Teacher; Technology teacher
Community Service	Sharing your ethnicity Sponsor	Help the student government or Student Government faculty advisor, etc. plan events for school wide celebrations such as Black History Month; Women in History Month; Hispanic American Month; Cultural Diversity Fairs, etc.	Student Gov't Advisor; Media Coordinators; Administration

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Community Service	Soup Kitchen volunteer	Help feed the homeless in our community... volunteer to help cook, serve or otherwise assist with meals at a local soup kitchen	Chapel Hill Soup Kitchen; Urban Ministries of Durham (919-688-7378) or http://www.umdurham.homestead.com
Community Service	Special Olympics volunteer	Work with the local Special Olympics organizers to help make the event a fun and exciting event for participants	Local organizers; PE Dept. of your local high school (i.e., Riverside High's Athletic Director); Exceptional Childrens' teachers
Community Service	Student Tutor or (Students against failing everywhere--S.A.V.E. volunteer)	Formally assist another student who needs help with their academics	Riverside Saturday Academy Coord; Department Chairpersons or your teachers
Community Service	Thank a Teacher	Show your gratitude to the faculty at your school or to just a few of your beloved teachers...organize a teacher car wash, craft giveaway or work with the PTSA to organize the teacher appreciation luncheon or "spruce up" the fac lounge, etc. They will <i>love it!</i>	Administration; PTSA contacts

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Community Service	Volunteer Swim teacher/coach	Volunteer at a local community pool and teach others to swim...or...offer to coach a team of swimmers during the summer	Community pool staff; YMCA??
Community Service	Volunteer Tax Preparer	Help students or seniors complete their BASIC tax forms for the federal and/or state taxes	
Community Service	Youth Advisory Board (Durham County Gov't)	Volunteer to serve on one of the youth boards sponsored by the local government. Be an advocate for youth	
Community Service	Youth Volunteer	The Volunteer Center of Durham & its Student Action Corp. provides numerous opportunities for students and adults to serve the local community. Go to the website and see what is offered.	Volunteer Center of Durham at: http://www.thevolunteercenter.org/sac.html

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Community Service	Hospital Volunteer; Candy Striper	Brighten patients' days at a local hospital...help in the gift shop or help deliver gift items to patient rooms	Volunteer office of the local hospitals (Duke Hospital Auxiliary or Durham Regional Hospital)
Hobby or Interest	Event Presenter	Want to share your talent with others or talk about your favorite hobby? Work with a local organization or the public library to sponsor an event. Teach others to play chess; learn to roller or ice skate; share tips playing a sport, etc.	Public Library staff; local community groups & centers, senior center
Hobby or Interest	Learning to bellydance	Bellydancing sounds like fun and is a great source of exercise	
Hobby or Interest	Learning to surf	Learn to surf and document the steps involved; be sure to include all we need to do to be good surfers, too.	YMCA

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Science - Ecology	Alum & Paper Recycling	work with a recycling program or set one up in a local business (i.e., gym; barber shop, etc.) or neighborhood	
Science - Ecology	Water Recycling	Assist families in taking steps to conserve water--set up a rain barrel or share information on how water may be conserved, etc.	Durham Co Gov't; Recycling Coord at your HS
Science & Math	Habitat for Humanity	Help to build a habitat home and learn what goes into making a home	School or community Habitat contacts; go to http://www.durhamhabitat.org/
Community Service	Data Entry Volunteer	Help "key in" information for the Urban Ministries of Durham office. Volunteers are frequently needed for a few hours a week.	Urban Ministries of Durham

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Community Service	Veterinarian's Volunteer Asst.	If you like animals, volunteer to help care for animals at the local animal shelter or veterinarian's office	Independent Animal Rescue;
Community Service	Meals-on-Wheels Volunteer	Help pack and/or assist in the deliver meals to the homes of sick and shut-in citizens.	Meals-on-Wheels Office
Community Service	Shelter Assistant	Work in the office at the local Urban Ministries of Durham office...answer the phone and greet guests, etc.	Urban Ministries of Durham
Community Service	Communities in Schools Elementary Youth Mentor	Patient, caring, responsible & fun-loving young adults are needed to serve as mentors for elementary-aged youngsters. Each mentor is asked to volunteer at least 4 hours per month.	Durham Public Schools Communities in Schools Program (Morris Street Building)
Community Service	Teen Court Volunteer	Interested in a career in law? Volunteer to be a member of the Durham Teen Court. Jury members, bailiffs attorneys and clerks are all teen volunteers.	The Volunteer Center of Durham

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Community Service	Geek-a-Thon Volunteer	Transform old computers into usable desktops and/or laptops for students and others. Great experience for those who love to "tinker" with technology.	
International Community Service	"Fight the Bite" or other Malaria prevention Mosquito nets Project	In cooperation with NOTHING BUT NETS, a United Nations Foundation project focused on malaria prevention in Africa, you can help gather insecticide-treated mosquito bed nets for African families.	Nets.orkin.com (to donate via your family's Orkin contract) or http://www.nothingbutnets.net/ (join teams and get more info)
School Community Service	Pirate Fitness	Sponsor a series of aerobic, walking, yoga or other activities to help fellow Pirates get into shape	Riverside Athletic Director (Ms. Chambers)
School Community Service	Storytelling Volunteer	Learn the art of storytelling and practice the skill by telling stories	Speak to a local storyteller or ask that he/she be your mentor; Durham Arts Council may also have local storytellers in its program
Community Service	Oral History Scholar	Learn about the tradition of oral history relating to your family or local community during this project and then share what you have uncovered	Print resources on genealogy; consult the Durham Public Library which has an extensive collection, plus which provides assistance in basic genealogy research; numerous websites address this topic as well

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International Community Service	"Pay it Forward" Volunteer	Families in many low wealth countries deal with extreme poverty every day. However, many have a hope of bringing themselves out of poverty by becoming entrepreneurs. Research what constitutes a good business plan and research some small businesses of these 3rd world women (in particular). Possibly help to donate funds or otherwise help them realize their business.	Kiva matches individuals with those needing VERY small loans to 3rd world entrepreneurs. Check out this website to help you design your graduation project: http://www.kiva.org/ Check out these organizations once you gather your old shoes: Soles4Souls.com ; www.solesunited.com (for your old Crocs); www.letmeplay.com/reuseashoe to recycle your old Nike sneakers
Community Service	The old shoe: Having heart & sole	Everyone has old shoes which no longer fit or which are no longer worn. Donate them to others	
Science/Community Action	BPA info awareness	Research harmful effects of BPA and Phthalates - create and distribute an information guide for parents/students	Soft Landing website; parent groups
environmental science, community action	Going Green	Create a "going green" guide for people so they can reduce their carbon footprint	Common Ground building supply store, Rebecca Hren and her book,
Careers	Music industry - recording and what it takes		

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Careers/ Hobbies and Interests	Basketball training for lower grades (any sport) - or just for students who want extra coaching, but not play on a team (could even be with ms or elem students)		
School Community Service	Start a group/club that fills a niche at Riverside (young women's, latina, amnesty, drumming, yoga, etc...)		
Community Action/ Local History	Interviewing people in the community		
Hobby or Interest	Salsa dancing		
Hobby or Interest	Puerto Rican Folkdance		
Careers	Medicine		
Careers/ Technology	Building a PC		

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Careers/ Technology	Building a skateboard		
Scholarly/ Hobby or Interest	Researching an art style, like Impressionism, and creating a painting as the product		
Physical Education	Something related to physical education		
Science	Science project/experiment (plant identification, global warming)		
TSA	Ask Tim about TSA		
Hobby or Interest/ Public Awareness	Boating safety		
Hobby or Interest	Kayaking		
Hobby or Interest	Diving		
Hobby or Interest	Backpacking		
Community Action	Leave No Trace		
Hobby or Interest	Swimming		
	Coupon clipping		
Hobby or Interest/Career	The psychological impact of color (used in decoration)		
Hobby or Interest/Career	Decorating on a shoestring (help beautify interiors of Houses for Habitat)		
Community Action	Some aspect of working with students and Habitat for Humanity		
Hobby or Interest/Career	Temperament of babies based on mother's nutrition		
Science/Nutrition	Eating disorders		
Health	Importance of Photochemicals		
Health/ Interest/ Careers	Teaching babies to sign		
	Innovate desks		
	Innovate media carts		
	Design benches for school		

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	Immigration patterns from Latin America to NC and the communities they form		
	Non-profit agencies in the Triangle for immigrant populations		
	Translating/Interpreting projects		
	Local History:		
	Royal Ice Cream 9		
	Demise of tobacco industry		
	Construction of 147		
	Integration of public schools		
	Durham bus boycott		
	Current construction plans for Alston area (East Durham)		
	Immigration laws in NC and how they are impacting residents		
	Farmer's Markets/Community Supported Agriculture		
	Environmental impact project for RHS		
	Bill and Ted type adventure for local history sites		
	Legislative page/political intern		
	Collecting oral histories for the WWII project		
	Completing Family Genealogy research – collecting photos/powerpoint		
	Volunteering in community and documenting the effort – paper on needs		
	(Ronald McDonald House, Wildlife, Humane Society, ...)		
	Service learning at Hillandale Elementary for students interested in education, tutoring, etc..		
	Stage managers – for mainstage shows		

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	Internships at area professional theaters – technical, technique seminars		
	Habitat for Humanity		
	Vet Hospital in Durham		
	Pediatric Oncology – volunteer at UNC/Duke		
	Tech theater projects – work with community theaters (Hidden Voices, Man Bites Dog, Common Ground, Playmakers)		
	Production Manager		
	Community theater service project		
	Working as a counselor for Theater Arts Camp/Teacher’s Assistant		
	Assistant Director/Stage Manager/for School Play crew		
	Dramaturg for fall/spring show		
	Children’s theater troupe – touring and traveling		
	Documentary Photography Project		
	Start athletic team for students with disabilities		
	Plan and organize “Music for All” event where students of all ages come and learn how to read and play music		
	Intern as a coach in a little league athletics/pee wee sport		
	Develop plan for recruitment and retention in arts classes		
	Create portfolio of musical achievements to include a large-scale performance (solo – or group) outside of school		
	Linder Contest – cash awards for papers on local history		

updated 11/6/08

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	Volunteer at the Boys and Girls club (see Hassel)		
	Local government internships		
	Tutoring		
	Durham's Trails/Greenways projects		
	Building and using a simple telescope		
	Write a computer program to model a physical system		

Notes

Perhaps you could prepare a brief broadcast in lieu of a powerpoint presentation and have it "air" on your school's (or the district) channel

Be creative and record your own "Day in the life..." broadcast or powerpoint to highlight your selected district administrator; use the DPS broadcasts as examples

Some athletes may have great contacts at the local fitness centers to help them gather resources and experience in this area

Notes

Great experience for someone interested in technology and web page creation & design

Your written paper *may* address marketing strategies and terms or the direction you would like to see the school store take???. This is a great way to expand your interest in marketing and sales.

If you enjoy working with younger kids and are good at it, this could be a very rewarding project for you! If you have a local contact at a day care, there may be similar opportunities there

Some local agencies already conduct these drives each year. You may want to join their efforts or design your own; Urban Ministries of Durham coordinates the Community Clothing Closet and frequently needs volunteers.

Notes

These are seasonal events so you must plan ahead!!!

Learn about another culture and support the student during his/her days at your school

Sometimes we all need a helping hand... why not use your time to help someone who could use your help and skill (and who would love to have someone to talk to as well).

Notes

Perfect activity for those hoping to work with young children as a Day Care provider, teacher or youth director in the future!

Only 300 positions are available and of course you must be accepted to complete this type of project

Many churches & other organizations coordinate these programs & mail the boxes. You could work along with them to gather items or prepare the boxes. These programs are completed in the fall each year.

Could be done any time during the summer or school year.

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<i>Notes</i>
Sometimes visiting students and others do not have the financial or other resources to purchase or otherwise get prom outfits or graduation garb. This is a great service!!

<i>Notes</i>
If you have a great voice and like to read, you could help us produce "readings" for visually impaired students. Consult Dr. Mayo for the Recording tips sheet
Be part of the process and help organize meaningful and fun activities at your school.

<i>Notes</i>
Documentation of your time and contact with the student will be very important.
What a great thing to do for your teachers!

Notes

Be sure you are a proficient swimmer before taking this one on; parents will want to know your credentials!

This is a seasonal project which would require that you know about the forms. Some classes cover this in their curriculum to help prepare you.

Student Action Corps (SAC) provides a list of one-time opportunities for "busy" students who want to "give back" to the community.

<i>Notes</i>
Showcase your talent/craft or organize a "class" to show others how to do something--make a craft; use a digital camera; program a cell phone, etc.
(Seasonal)

<i>Notes</i>
Take part in the youth build house...speak with the school's Habitat advisor to coordinate activities (Seasonal)

<i>Notes</i>
Routes can take 30 to 90 minutes to "run". Student volunteers may be limited to certain activities (i.e., not driving the routes)
Youth mentors are screened, trained and assigned an elementary mentee.
Must be willing to commit to Thursday evenings when Teen Court is held.

<i>Notes</i>
This is an annual event combining the efforts of _____ and the Durham Public Schools.
World Malaria Day is April 25th...a wonderful project to center around that date???! Also check out: http://www.madnessagainstmalaria.com/en/default.aspx

<i>Notes</i>
Also...Michigan State's college of Osteopathic Med redistributes used shoes (www.com/msu.edu/pub-rel/hearandsole/index.html). Get the details first...some organizations only want "gently used shoes."

<i>Notes</i>

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