

How To Plan a Men's Workday

When thinking about a project for your men's group workday, consider a few things ahead of time. First, it helps to informally assess what your group is good at doing. Perhaps your group has skills for construction or painting. Maybe your group likes to meet people and is great at building friendships. Or perhaps your skills are varied, and you would like to fit into an already existing opportunity like cleaning up litter for a neighborhood park or serving food at a soup kitchen.

Once you have an idea of the type of project you would like to do, look for a location to do it. Your neighborhoods are full of such places. Here's a few ideas:

- Homes of the elderly in need of repair
- Neighborhood parks that could use a clean-up, repair, or improvements
- Local buildings that would benefit from a ramp or a new walkway
- Community spaces ripe for spring yard work like planting, digging, and mowing
- Youth centers looking for mentors for the day
- Nursing homes with people who haven't had a visit in a while
- Soup kitchens looking for people to serve food
- Local schools needing playground equipment repairs or teachers needing something built for their classrooms

The options are endless!

Start Planning

- a. Start planning at least 3 months ahead of when you want to do a project with your group.
- b. Use the list above to gather some options for service in your community. Once you have some ideas, go to your men's group for discussion. Be sure to open the floor for other ideas and connections. If you need to do more research, divide the list of possible projects between you and research options between meetings.
- c. Usually one-three projects float to the top of the ideas list. Sometimes you can do more than one in a day, so create one or two possible scenarios and bring them to your group for a vote.
- d. Once the project is selected, select a date (if needed), and divide preparation responsibilities.
Responsibilities to consider: gathering project materials, publicity, safety equipment, refreshments, and host communication. Be sure to set some deadlines and communication channels between the project leader and those helping with the preparation.
- e. One other important aspect of planning is to determine how many people are needed and if you need to create a sign-up to assure you have enough, or not too many, people to accomplish the task you are committing to do.

Publicity

- a. Communicate the date, time and service project details within your group. Be sure to include several reminders in your communication plan.
- b. Communicate your workday in your church and invite others to join you (if appropriate for the project). This can be a great way to get other men involved who have not been

attending your other group activities, such as the Bible Study. Use all of the communication tools at your congregation as well as direct invitations and word of mouth.

- c. Be sure to add a follow-up to your workday in your communication. Showing pictures of what you accomplished, thanking those involved, and inviting others to join in your men's group activities helps build support and involvement in your group.

One Week Prior to Workday

- a. Check-in with your workday leader, or leaders, to make sure everyone was able to take care of their responsibilities and all materials are gathered, refreshments are planned, safety protocols are in place, and communication had been occurring with the host.
- b. With your leaders, make a plan for how accomplish the tasks for the workday. You will want to have clear directions for each person who arrives to help. Divide the tasks into jobs and prepare what each person needs to know to accomplish the task. Consider the skills needed and who is planning to attend.
- c. If your project is outdoors, check the weather forecast and consider alternate planning if weather could hamper your work.

Workday

- a. Your workday has arrived! Arrive early, be prepared for the unexpected, and enjoy the fellowship and relationship building that occurs when solving whatever curveballs get thrown into your day.