

1. **Arts:** theater, music, dance, painting, photography, creative writing and other creative endeavors.
2. **Church activity:** community outreach, helping the elderly, event planning, community suppers, church-sponsored music and athletic programs, teaching or organizing for summer camps and retreats, missionary work, and any other activity run through the church.
3. **Clubs:** Chess club, mathletes, mock trial, debate, animé club, role playing club, language clubs, film club, skateboarding club, diversity/minority groups and so on.
4. **Community activity:** community theater, event organizing, festival staff, and many other activities that are organized through the community, not the school.
5. **Governance:** Student government, student council, prom committee, community youth board (see [Sophie's essay](#)), advisory boards and so on.
6. **Hobbies:** Be creative here. Read these articles on how [Rubik's Cube](#) or [Collecting Free Stuff](#) can be transformed into an extracurricular activity. Also, colleges are interested in your passion whether it be rocketry, model railroads, collecting, blogging or quilting. These interests show that you have interests outside of the classroom.
7. **Media:** local television, school radio or television, yearbook staff, school newspaper, literary journal, blogging and online journaling, local newspaper, and any other work that leads to a television show, movie or publication (online or print).
8. **Military:** Junior ROTC, drill teams and related activities.
9. **Music:** Chorus, band (marching, jazz, symphonic, concert, pep...), orchestra, ensembles and solo. These musical groups could be through school, church, the community or your personal group or solo efforts.
10. **Sports:** Football, baseball, hockey, track, gymnastics, dance, lacrosse, swimming, soccer, skiing, cheerleading and so on.
11. **Volunteer Work and Community Service:** Key Club, Habitat for Humanity, tutoring and mentoring, community fund-raising, Rotary, church outreach, hospital work (candy stripping), animal rescue, nursing home work, poll worker, volunteer fire department, creating hiking trails, Adopt-a-Highway, and any other work that helps the world and is not for pay.

Source of the above list: <http://collegeapps.about.com>

Thousands of veterans and active-duty service members have found fly-fishing to be a form of rehabilitation for the physical and emotional wounds they suffered in combat. Since 2005, [Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing](#), a national volunteer network of fly-fishers, has brought them together to cast, fish, tie flies -- and to begin to move beyond the trauma of war.

Source of the above information: <http://flyfishing.about.com>

- Plant flowers to beautify a school, park or other community area
- Help serve meals to shut-ins
- Collect food or other necessities for emergency relief
- Clean up a playground (with proper supervision and safety considerations)
- Raise money for a charity of their choice

In addition to the above listed activities, middle school students can:

- Tutor younger children
- Sew, make or repair items needed for a local shelter
- and more . . .

High school children can:

- Provide child care for a "mom's morning out" program
- Teach children and adults to read

Source of the above list: <http://kidsclubs.about.com>

1. **Collecting packaged food.** Many local churches and community centers either donate directly or have a line in to groups that coordinate relief efforts for local shelters and other agencies that are providing aid to the families and individuals in need. Your kids can pitch in by going shopping with you to pick out items for donation, such as canned food, crackers, diapers, and more, and then helping you deliver those goods for distribution.
2. **Donating used toys and books.** Kids can also take a look around the house for items that are in good shape but that they no longer use, like toys and clothes that they've outgrown.
3. **Walking or riding for charity.** Here's a great idea for how kids can make a difference and get fit at the same time: walk-a-thons or bike-a-thons. Many national organizations like Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and American Cancer society hold family and kids walk-a-thons, and hospitals like [Memorial Sloan Kettering](#), which donates 100 percent of the proceeds from their walk-a-thon to pediatric cancer research, organize walking events in several cities. The benefits of participating in a walk- or bike-a-thon go beyond the race itself. Aside from giving kids a sense of pride and accomplishment when they take part in an event like this, training for the walk with mom and dad can be an excellent way for families to spend time together while getting fit.
4. **Cleaning up parks.** As children get older, they can participate in clean-up events at the park. Even younger kids can help out by picking up litter. Contact your local park to see what events families can participate in.
5. **Working at a community garden.** Helping plant flowers, vegetables, and other growing things is a wonderful activity for children. They'll gain a tremendous sense of accomplishment as they watch the results of their work grow, and they'll be able to spend time outdoors among nature while doing something valuable for the community.
6. **Helping neighbors.** Kids can volunteer to help elderly neighbors by shoveling their sidewalk or by helping mom and dad bake some treats with mom or dad to take to them. Older kids can help babysit young neighborhood kids or help them learn to read. (Your child's help may be especially appreciated by a working single mother or a family that's busy taking care of a new baby or an elderly parent.)

Source of the above list: <http://childparenting.about.com>