



# DELTA CHI

## COMMUNITY SERVICE BRIEF

Updated July 2025

Community Service is an important aspect of living out the preamble of Delta Chi. This BRIEF encompasses best practices and ideas for community service events. This guide offers best practices for organizing meaningful community service events that reflect these principles.

## UNDERSTANDING SERVICE

Community Service means participating in hands-on volunteer work to benefit local organizations or causes.

## COMMUNITY AND UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

Delta Chi emphasizes serving the community and encourages chapters to partner with local organizations. This builds positive community relationships, enhances visibility, and fosters member pride.

### WHY SHOULD WE HAVE A SERVICE PARTNER?

Establishing a partnership with a local organization can offer your chapter a variety of benefits, including:

- Creates a sense of identity and pride among members.
- Develop lasting relationships for members within the chapter.
- Increase your visibility on campus and within the local community.
- Offers continuity to your service operations and planning.
- Through regular partnership, there is an opportunity to see the collective impact of your service and witness a change or difference being made.

### HOW DO WE FIND A PARTNER?

#### Determine Your Focus/Cause

Start by identifying the cause or area your chapter is most passionate about supporting. Participating in this service opportunity *should* excite and motivate your members.

#### Ask Questions to Guide Your Decision

As you research potential partners, consider these questions:

- What types of service activities do members enjoy?
- Are there causes members already feel connected to or passionate about ?
- How can this partnership positively impact our members' experience?
- How could the local organization benefit from our chapter's involvement?
- What volunteer opportunities are available to our members?
- What expectations would both the chapter and the service partner have?
- How does the partner's mission align with the values of Delta Chi?
- What short-term & long-term impacts would working with this organization create?

#### Leverage Campus Resources

Many campuses have offices dedicated to community engagement or volunteer programs. Reach out to these offices to learn about local agencies and opportunities, or to begin introductions.

#### Collaborate for Success

Once you identify a potential partner, involve them in the planning process. Invite them to educate your members about their mission and needs. Collaboration will strengthen your relationship and make your efforts more impactful.

## **Follow Up!**

The key to this entire process is to follow up with the service partner. Make time to prioritize the relationship AND the service itself. Send a follow up email, write a thank you note, or call the service partner after each service event to gain feedback and knowledge about how the event went and what your chapter can do to be better partners.

## **SERVICE EVENT PLANNING GUIDE**

Once your chapter has identified a local service partner, it is time to determine how to give back to the community based on their needs. Thoughtful planning ensures that your event is meaningful, rewarding for your members and helps build a positive relationship with your service partner and the community.

Here's a guide to help you plan a successful service event, and how to reflect on the experience afterwards.

### **STEPS FOR SERVICE EVENT PLANNING**

The process of planning an event should create a clear understanding of the who, what, when, where and why of the service your chapter is participating in. Here's some steps to consider as you plan:

#### **Determine the Type of Service**

Start by understanding the type of service that best aligns with your members' interests and your partner's needs. If you've already identified a partner, they may have specific projects in mind.

#### **Set the Date:**

Coordinate with your service partner to identify a mutually beneficial time for the event. Consider:

- Your chapter's calendar, member availability and any major conflicts.
- Member availability (such as work or class schedules).
- The partner's schedule and any key dates for them,

Once the date, time, and location is selected—communicate that information with your members early & often, and consider travel times to and from the location.

#### **Gather Supplies:**

Every event is different and may require different items (ex. bags and gloves for trash pickup, tools for repairs, certain clothing requirements, etc.). Ensure that someone is identified and responsible for communicating these expectations and bringing resources to the service project.

#### **Share Expectations:**

Before arriving at your service partner's location, share the history or mission of the organization with members to better understand the "why" behind the work.

- Verify with your service partner if it is okay to take photos during the activity.
- Share any special instructions (like check-in procedures, dress codes, or safety guidelines) with members before arrival.

## REFLECTING ON SERVICE

Reflection is a key part of the service experience. It helps members grow, learn and see the impact of their work. Below are some guidelines:

### Set the Scene

Find a quiet, comfortable space to gather after the service project has concluded. This could be at the service site, in a room on campus, or at a chapter facility. Consider having your service partner participate or share their perspectives on the day.

### Facilitate Thoughtful Discussion

Encourage members to share:

- Moments that stood out or felt especially impactful
- How the experience strengthened brotherhood and teamwork
- Any new insights or changes in perspectives they gained

Remind everyone to listen and respect each other's viewpoints

### Share a Summary

At the next chapter meeting, share with all members about the experience and highlight any key takeaways or memorable moments. Be sure to share details about the next opportunity they will have to engage with the partner at another activity

### Additional Tips & Ideas:

- Consider using a shared document or checklist to track tasks and deadlines for planning.
- If you're working with a new service partner, consider scheduling a short introductory meeting to get to know them and discuss mutual goals.
- Encourage members to take photos (if allowed) to share on social media or with the chapter to celebrate your work and inspire others.
- Don't forget to share your work with IHQ and your Officer Success Manager if you need support or have questions!

## COLLABORATING WITH CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Building strong relationships with both campus departments and local organizations enhances the impact of your service efforts.

### POTENTIAL PARTNERS:

- University service-learning offices
- Local chapters of national non-profits (e.g., Habitat for Humanity, United Way, etc.)
- Community centers and youth programs
- Environmental conservation groups

### COLLABORATION STRATEGIES

- Co-host events with both Greek and non-Greek organizations to pool resources and reach wider audiences.
- Share promotional efforts to increase awareness & visibility of the event/cause.
- Engage in joint reflection sessions post-event to evaluate impact.

Below are some common philanthropic and community-based organizations that are typically present in most communities:

- Boy Scouts of America
- Special Olympics
- Red Cross
- American Cancer Society
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Boys & Girls Club
- Gift of Life Marrow Registry
- United Way
- Habitat for Humanity

You can also consider participating in campus-wide philanthropic events that benefit the local community. This could include Relay for Life, Up 'Til Dawn, and Dance Marathon. Many colleges and universities also offer an alternative fall/spring break trip that is rooted in justice centered community engagement/service. Your chapter/provisional chapter or individual members can be involved throughout the year and have a lasting impact on your community.

## WEEK OF SERVICE

In honor of Delta Chi's founding on October 13th, all chartered and provisional chapters are encouraged to participate in Week of Service around this date. This initiative emphasizes our dedication to community involvement. Be sure to report all hours served through the Community Service Hours Submission Form located on the Delta Chi website.

Typically, the time around Founders' Day is also marked as a Day of Giving for the Delta Chi Foundation. There may be unique ways to incorporate philanthropic giving to the Foundation along with the Week of Service activities.

### PLANNING TIPS:

- **Schedule Thoughtfully:** If the designated week conflicts with academic commitments or university breaks, select an alternative week that suits your chapter's needs.
- **Diverse Activities:** Organize a range of events, from hands-on service to fundraising initiatives (that still involve a service component).
- **Promote Participation:** Encourage all members to engage and invite the broader campus community.
- **Document and Share:** Capture the events through photos and videos to share with IHQ & on social media.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE IDEAS

Engaging in direct service allows members to connect deeply with the community. Consider the following activities:

- Adopt-a-highway programs for litter cleanup
- Volunteering at local shelters or food banks
- Assisting at animal shelters with care and maintenance
- Participating in community garden projects
- Mentoring or tutoring programs for youth

## REPORTING AND REFLECTING

After each event, it's crucial to assess and share your experiences:

- **Internal Reflection:** Hold a debrief session with members to discuss successes and areas for improvement.
- **Feedback from Partners:** Solicit input from collaborating organizations to strengthen future partnerships.
- **Documentation:** Keep records of events, including participant numbers, funds raised, and community impact.
- **Reporting to IHQ:** While the dollars you raise for the V Foundation will automatically be reported to IHQ through the use of CrowdChange, your service hours will be reported using the Community Service Hours Submission Form located on the Delta Chi Website.

For support on working host a community service event, contact your Officer Success Manger on the Chapter Services team at IHQ!