

Good Turn Challenge



It All Started with a Good Turn: William D. Boyce was lost in a London fog when a boy came up to him and ask him if he could help. Mr. Boyce asked for directions and the boy escorted him to the destination. Mr. Boyce offered to pay the boy, but the boy said, “Sir, I am a Scout. Scouts do not accept tips for doing a good turn.” 4 months later, William Boyce founded the Boy Scout movement in the United States.

The Challenge: This December, we encourage all Scouts to follow the lead of the unknown British Scouts. Random opportunities constantly present themselves throughout the day to help others. The Boy Scout Oath states “Help other people at all times.” We challenge our Scouts to provide good turns to others when these opportunities present themselves. When doing these random good turns, please follow all guidelines to keep safe and to maintain youth protection guidelines.

The Process: When doing a random good turn or an organized service project, keep a personal log and record the amount of time the turn took. All turns will count as a minimum of 10 minutes. Give your log to your Scout leader who will record your service hours online.

Hand the individual you helped an information card which can be printed and cut out from the form below. Remember, a Scout doesn’t take tips. If one is offered, simply state “Sir (or Ma’am), I am a Scout. Scouts do not accept tips for doing a good turn.”

Good Turn Examples:

A Scout is with their parents at the grocery store and the Scout helps an elderly person load their groceries in their car then returns the cart to the cart rack for them.

Pumping gas and wash the windows at the gas station for someone needing assistance.

Helping a teacher clean up after a class activity at school.

Troop assisting the conservation department winterizing a park by moving picnic tables and other items to designated areas to keep safe for the winter.



Recognition: Throughout the month, we want to hear about what great things our Scouts are doing. Please email Mississippi Valley Council at mvc@scouting.org and let us know what Good Turns the Scouts in your Pack/Troop are doing.

Prizes: The Pack and Troop with the largest number of service hours/Scout for the month of December will win a pizza party. Service hours will be calculated on January 8, 2021 based on the number of services hours per pack/troop submitted online for December divided by the number of registered Scouts on December 31, 2020.