



DALLAS COUNTY JUDGE CLAY LEWIS JENKINS

ASK NOT – THE DALLAS COUNTY DAY OF SERVICE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In an effort led by County Judge Clay Jenkins, the Dallas County Commissioners Court has established “Ask Not - The Dallas County Day of Service” on Thursday, November 21, 2013.

During his inauguration speech on January 20, 1961, President John F. Kennedy challenged Americans to a higher level of concern and action for their neighbors in one of his most famous statements, **“Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.”**

That sentiment of duty through service became the hallmark of his brief tenure as president. On November 22, 1963, during a visit to Dallas County, his life tragically ended. This year will mark 50 years since his untimely death and provides Dallas County with the opportunity to jointly honor the life and legacy of President Kennedy through multiple service opportunities in Dallas County.

Cities, local organizations, and school districts throughout Dallas County have organized service projects in their respective areas on that day to honor the life and legacy of President Kennedy highlighting the strength and diversity of our county, which has grown into the hub of the fourth largest and fastest growing metro area in the last 50 years.

When considering how best to honor President Kennedy and incorporate a spirit of service that best described the late president’s life, a day of service across Dallas County seemed most appropriate. The list of projects is being compiled by the Office of County Judge Jenkins although each project has its own captain and site coordinator.

Finally, the President’s own words at the conclusion of that historic inaugural speech serve as the basis for this program and the events scheduled throughout the day:

“Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God’s work must truly be our own.”

Planned Activities for "Ask Not- The Dallas County Day of Service"

Tuesday, November 19

9:00 a.m.

Dallas County Commissioners Court

411 Elm Street, Dallas 75202

Dallas County Commissioners Court will formally proclaim Thursday, November 21 as the Dallas County Day of Service.

Thursday, November 21

North Texas Food Bank

GE Capital employees and Dallas County employees will separate and prepare canned goods for delivery at the local food bank

Salvation Army Warehouse

Parkland Hospital employees and D/FW Hospital employees will sort items at the Dallas Warehouse for annual Angel Tree project.

City of University Park

Residents will plant trees, shrubs, and roses at three city parks and medians with students from the Highland Park Independent School District.

City of Cockrell Hill

Residents will be converting a small piece of property into a park at West Clarendon & Cockrell Hill Roads.

Cedar Crest AARP

Local residents will visit with seniors in this chapter. They will serve light refreshments, play games and fellowship.

South Dallas Nursing Home

The Southwestern Christian College choir will sing to and visit with residents of the nursing home.

City of Balch Springs

The Greenest Mile: events throughout the day will promote environmentalism and culminate with planting trees that evening.

The Bridge

Dallas County employees will volunteer at the city's largest transitional home for homeless residents.

West Dallas Community Center

Dallas County employees will serve dinner to the families of students who receive assistance at the community center.

City of Richardson

Deliver collected shoes to local non-profit that serves impoverished families.

City of Hutchins

The mayor and council members will be visiting the library to read to students as well as the local senior center to play games and fellowship.

City of Lancaster

Employees and residents will be cleaning up Cedardale Road and delivering collected canned food to the Lancaster Outreach Center.

Lancaster Independent School District

LISD students will deliver handwritten thank-you cards to the Lancaster Police and Fire Departments.

City of DeSoto

The mayor and local veterans will be visiting area schools to share their experiences on public service.

Dallas County

- Auto Service Center

Dallas County will offer free car washes for veterans at its Auto Service Center.

- Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center

Dallas County employees will donate blood through the Carter Blood Center mobile clinic.

- Family Gateway

Dallas County truancy court employees will volunteer at Family Gateway, a transitional housing center for homeless families with children.

- Truancy Magistrates

Dallas County truancy magistrates will volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, Austin Street Shelter, Operation Kindness, and Crossroads Community Services.

- Genesis Women's Shelter

Dallas County employees will deliver collected items to Genesis Women's Shelter, a local organization that provides shelter, safety, counseling, and expert services to battered women and their children.

- Children's Medical Center

Dallas County employees will deliver collected items to Children's Medical Center – a private, not-for-profit, and is the fifth-largest pediatric health care provider in the nation. It is the only academic health care facility in North Texas dedicated exclusively to the comprehensive care of children from birth to age 18.

- CitySquare

Dallas County employees will deliver collected items to CitySquare, a local organization that exists to fight the root causes of poverty by partnering with those in need.

Dallas Independent School District

- Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy
County Judge Clay Jenkins will visit Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy to visit with students.
- John F. Kennedy Learning Center
County Judge Clay Jenkins and DISD Superintendent Mike Miles will visit John F. Kennedy Learning Center to read and discuss excerpts from the writings of President Kennedy.
- Sunset High School
Sunset High School staff and students will visit neighborhood nursing homes.
- Wilmer Hutchins High School
Students and staff will deliver collected canned foods to local shelter.
- Arcadia Park Elementary School
Arcadia Park Elementary School will clean around the campus community.
- Stevens Park Elementary School
Stevens Park Elementary will beautify their school community.
- Nancy Cochran Elementary School
Nancy J. Cochran Elementary School will unveil art project in tribute to President Kennedy.
- H.C. Withers Elementary School
H. C. Withers Elementary School read and display essays written in tribute to President Kennedy.

Participating Entities:





Organizations being served:



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