



101 ACTS OF NEIGHBORING

Fun and simple ways to connect with your neighbors and improve community.

Won't you be our neighbor? National Good Neighbor Day is September 28! Learn about fun and simple ways to connect with your neighbors and improve your community at phoenix.gov/NSD.

Even one small act of neighborliness can make a big difference in a neighbor's life. Multiple or ongoing acts of kindness among neighbors, though rarer these days, can positively transform individuals, families, blocks, neighborhoods, communities and even our city! Being neighborly has too often become a special event, yet being a good neighbor can be simple, affordable, achievable, and fun. Being a good neighbor can open opportunities to begin or strengthen connections and neighborhood involvement. These ideas are to help get us comfortable to start or restart being a Good Neighbor. Join us!

For those who feel overwhelmed, engaging your neighbors does not mean you host a block party with inflatables first thing (and maybe never). Acts of good neighboring are better to start small by reaching out to your eight (or even two) closest neighbors with an act of kindness. As you get to know your neighbors and they get to know you, the next shared interest opportunities will begin to emerge. Being neighborly, on your block, street, or community, might be a shared food gathering, walks or bike rides together, creating an emergency call list, or simply learning names, making positive eye contact, and waving hello! A good neighbor builds positive connections, not complex or expensive entertainment.

For those who feel curious, the 101 Acts of Neighboring list was first developed in the spring of 2021 between University of Missouri Extension and the Springfield-Greene County Library District. Then further refined with Springfield television station KY3 to help celebrate National Good Neighbor Day. Then in 2022 as part of a partnership between MU Extension and The Hopeful Neighborhood Project. To celebrate National Good Neighbor Day September 28, 2024, the City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department (NSD) is partnering too, and inviting local neighborhood associations, block watches and our Phoenix residents to further refine and improve the 101 Acts of Neighboring list and positive impacts.

For those who feel hopeful to remain or practice becoming a Good Neighbor, this list offers ideas toward something each of us (*including the most hesitant or introverted*) can do every day to help improve our own street, block, neighborhood, or community – right where we each live, by choosing to be neighborly. The ideas on this list, is your invitation to join us and others to be a Good Neighbor. Please share your ideas, experiences and invite others too. Happy neighboring!

101 Acts of Neighboring | For more information and inspiration, visit: <https://engagedneighbor.com/> or <https://www.hopefulneighborhood.org/>

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Fun and simple ways to connect with your neighbors and improve community.

1. Invite neighbor parents/guardians over with their children for a game night.
2. Organize a simple parade in your neighborhood. Any theme can work, and simple is essential!
3. Host a soup and salad potluck for neighbors in your driveway.
4. Set up an outdoor photo booth with simple masks, accessories, and props. Have people share and tag on your neighborhood social media group(s) and #GoodNeighborDay.
5. Grill hamburgers and/or hot dogs in the front yard to share with neighbors along with cold water! Enhance with music, sidewalk chalk or a simple craft.
6. Put out chairs or a bench in the front yard, and sit so neighbors can join you to rest, drink something and connect.
7. Bring out a fire pit in your front yard. Want to make it regular? Rotating neighbor yard hosts as Front Yard Fridays!
- 8. Offer a helping hand to rake a neighbor's lawn or clean rain or street gutters to show your neighbors you care.**
9. Send a text, an email, or a card to your neighbors thanking them for being great neighbors or checking in on them just to say "Hello". They will be surprised that you took the time to connect – especially if it's a handwritten note.
10. Host neighbors for evening coffee and dessert. Communicate if it's family-friendly or adults only.
11. In cooler weather, set up a TV or projector in the garage or on your house. Invite neighbors over to watch a football or soccer game, a movie or TV show. Make it a regular connection time by choosing a sport season, or movie or TV series to watch together. Provide or potluck some snacks, cheer on your favorite team, and connect.
12. Give thank you cards to those in your neighborhood who contribute in big and small ways. In addition to your neighbors, consider your "community helpers" like first responders, educators, public works, and parks workers.
- 13. Silly or dance walk around your block. Please share photos and start a trend! Plus, you're getting your steps in!**
14. (Co)Host a potluck with a theme for neighbors on the driveway? Invite them to bring a favorite dish, or a traditional family or cultural dish or food inspired from their favorite book, movie, or memory.
15. Organize a fish fry, BBQ smoke-off, salsa, or hot wings cooking contest where the neighbors are the judges.
16. Mail or leave a surprise affirmation/gratitude/encouragement note on your neighbor's door.
17. Use the element of surprise with a gift or act of service that would bless and make your neighbors smile.
18. Get all the neighbors involved in a free car wash (for everyone on your street) at your or a neighbor's house.
19. Organize a neighborhood ping pong, corn hole, bocce, spike ball or croquet tournament.
20. Host outdoor movie nights: Project a movie onto a garage or outdoor screen.
21. Offer to bring in the mail or deliveries when a neighbor is on vacation.
22. If new neighbors have moved in, throw a welcome party. Ask established neighbors to bring an appetizer or a dessert to share.
(Sunday from 4 - 6 pm is a good time.)
23. Help with overgrown lawns or foliage for the elderly or single parents in the neighborhood.
- 24. Take walks or bike rides together and reimagine your neighborhood discussing how you can help it happen.**
25. (Co)Host a Pancakes on the Porch breakfast.
26. Plan a neighborhood scavenger hunt. You can do it all together or use a social media group to post the list and have people send in pictures as they meet people and discover gifts in their neighborhood.
27. Find out who has served in the Armed Forces in your neighborhood and think of something you could do for them that would show you appreciate their service.
- 28. "Sunday Sundaes." Neighbors gather for sundaes on Sunday.**
29. Donuts on the driveway (with coffee or cider, of course). Invite your local Community Action Officer to join in!
30. Offer to walk your neighbor's dog(s). They might welcome the break and you might have a chance to meet more neighbors while getting in some healthy movement and vitamin D.
31. Bring cut flowers to a homebound neighbor on your block or in your neighborhood.
32. Start a neighborhood garden and share the produce to your neighbors. You might want to put it in the front yard, so the neighbors watch the vegetables and flowers grow. *
33. Start a neighborhood lending or Free Little Library. You can build a book box on a pole for the neighborhood or in a public place in your apartment building. There are resources and examples online.
34. Look for needs in the neighborhood and ask if you can lend a hand.

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35. Work with neighbors and coordinate a neighborhood progressive dinner.
36. Invite your neighbors over for a barbecue. Arrange simple activities for the kids so they are included too.
37. Host a neighborhood book club. You can host in your house, garage, or a local space like the library, community center, or a church basement. Make it a silent book club and you can all read your own books silently - together.
- 38. Go for a walk and bring a small trash bag to pick up trash along the sidewalk. Do this regularly to improve the neighborhood along with your health!**
39. Use sidewalk chalk to write an inspiring message on the sidewalk in front of your home.
40. Ask an elderly neighbor or parent with young children if you can pick up items for them while you're at the store.
41. If you play a musical instrument, give invitations to your neighbors to attend an outdoor concert on the curb at a given time or meet more neighbors just by playing on your front porch. Make it a jam session once you discover more musicians in your neighborhood or nearby.
- 42. Introduce yourself to a neighbor and write down their name. Then use their name the next time you see them.**
43. Compliment a neighbor on a feature of their home or garden.
44. Make yourself available or wave to neighbors by spending more time in the front yard.
45. Host a garage sale with special discounts for your neighbors or make it a clothing exchange.
46. Make a double batch of the cookies you're baking and bring some to a neighbor.
47. Know neighborhood parents who could use a night out? Once you get to know them, offer to babysit for free.
48. Organize a blitz neighborhood cleanup. Contact your [City of Phoenix Neighborhood Specialist](#) to help get started.
49. Make or order dinner for a neighbor who has just had a baby or surgery.
- 50. Share a plant in a terracotta pot. Write positive words describing your neighbor on the pot and give it to them!**
51. Say hello or wave each time you see your neighbors.
52. Bring in your neighbors' garbage can(s) or offer to sweep their walkway or sidewalk segment.
53. Leave a bottle of bubbles, flowers, or a coloring book on the neighbor's doorstep.
54. Ask a neighbor if there's a chore you can help them do.
55. Set up a reverse lemonade stand with free drinks for neighbors.
56. Host a weekly or monthly coffee bar in your garage for the neighborhood to gather people and get acquainted.
57. Create a front yard water park for the neighbors with a sprinkler, slip-and-slide, and water balloons.
58. Read a good book about neighborly to get you inspired. Try Dave Runyon's book, "The Art of Neighboring."
59. Read Melody Warnick's book, "This Is Where You Belong" and try out one of her ideas.
60. Learn your neighbors' names and get their contact information to create a neighborhood directory, either for yourself or to share between neighbors.
- 61. Host a corn hole tournament on your driveway among neighbors.**
62. Ask a neighbor for help or to borrow something. Make sure to thank them and return item, if borrowed.
63. Make a phone call to a neighbor to chat, perhaps ask for advice.
64. Form a "secret service club" that meets monthly to help a needy neighbor.
65. Do a favor for a neighbor or make a special delivery.
66. Create and distribute a neighborhood newsletter. If you have time, include a profile on a neighbor to introduce them to others. Distribute with family members or neighbors to build connections while walking.
67. Start walking your neighborhood intentionally. Say hello to everyone you see and make a note of something new each time.
68. Wait to close the garage door until after you have unloaded your vehicle. If you see a neighbor outside or a car driving past, raise a hand to say hello.
- 69. Keep your head up when you check your mail. Acknowledge anyone you see outside.**
70. Bring playtime or snack-time outside to the front yard if you have children. Invite neighbor kids to join if the opportunity arises.
71. Introduce yourself to a neighbor you have not met before.
72. Tell a neighbor what you love or admire about their children or their parenting.
73. Organize a Halloween costume parade and contest in your neighborhood.
74. Organize a night out for neighbors at a bowling alley or golf driving range.
75. Take treats to elderly neighbors who would appreciate the attention.
76. Invite your neighbors to help others by collecting food for a food pantry or another item for a nonprofit or school.
77. Put together a goodie bag for the neighbors and go from house to house, giving them out (singing holiday songs).
78. Start a toy drive in the neighborhood for vulnerable children.
79. Give mini-Poinsettias with notes to neighbors.
- 80. Offer free holiday gift wrapping for the neighborhood with coffee and cookies or host a wrapping party.**
81. Plan or do an activity of good neighboring and #GoodNeighborDay and send photos to your [City of Phoenix Neighborhood Specialist](#) or email to NSD@Phoenix.gov.
82. Organize monthly "block talk" gatherings or "driveway chats." Keep the food simple and let different homes host.

83. Host an Easter sunrise service on your driveway or area park. End the service with an Easter Egg hunt in the neighborhood.
84. Organize a neighborhood basketball or whiffle ball game. Get the adults involved!
85. For kids: Leave May Day (May 1st) flower baskets, ring the bell, and run away.
86. Engage with your [City of Phoenix area's Neighborhood Association or Block Watch](#). If you don't have one, start one! Host quarterly gatherings with guests, like city officials and staff, to connect with neighbors.
87. Take the Engaged Neighbor Pledge through a survey at <http://nomoregoodneighbors.com>.
88. Create or host a neighborhood tool library so neighbors can check out needed but lesser-used tools for projects.
89. Create a contact on your phone with your name, phone number, address, and title "neighbor". When you meet someone new you can easily share your contact with them.
- 90. Save any neighbor contacts on your phone with the title "neighbor", then you can easily text or contact the group with a simple search for neighbor in your contact list.**
91. Create games and activities on your neighborhood sidewalks with sidewalk chalk to encourage people to go on a walk and do something fun (things like hopscotch, curving lines to balance on, riddles, or challenges, like 5 push-ups or 3 cartwheels).
92. Make name tags for your next neighborhood event for each neighbor. Keep them in a book so when they come back, they know they belong (and when they don't come, they are missed). Include name, address, how long they have lived in the neighborhood, hometown, and/or hobbies to help people connect.
- 93. Write a welcome note for a new neighbor with a list of your favorite neighborhood things, include hidden gems not easily searchable on google.**
94. Write a note of thanks to first responders, educators or veterans and military families in your neighborhood.
95. Visit your local library for some research about your neighborhood. Share what you learned and ask neighbors what they know.
96. Cheer on a local youth sports team, if you any neighborhood kids play a sport, get the schedule from their parents/guardians, and let them know you are supporting them.
97. Invite a neighbor to a local event, like a craft fair, concert in the park or [G.A.I.N. Event](#).
98. Go to a library or bookstore event featuring a local author or speaker. Invite a neighbor to go with you.
99. Join your local neighborhood association or block watch and find ways to support and thank them for their efforts.
- 100. Host a neighborhood story time in your front yard for neighborhood kids. Read a story and offer popsicles or fruit to help strengthen literacy and connection.**
101. Offer to teach a skill you have to local neighbors. Skills like baking, writing, public speaking, budgeting, sewing, watercolor, and fixing a lawn mower are just a few ideas of skills many people, of all ages, would love to learn.