



## **OMSDT KNIGHTS TEMPLAR DAY OF CHARITABLE SERVICE**

OMSDT Knights Templar has set aside the second Saturday of every September as our Day of Charitable Service. As well as spreading the love of Christ in our communities and making charitable monetary donations, performing works of charitable service is a very important aspect of the purpose of our Order. Although we encourage charitable service by our members as often as is possible, the second Saturday of every September will be an Order-wide event in which all members will participate.

The second Saturday of every September was chosen based on the information about the International Day of Charity's event, in which people around the world observe the death anniversary of Mother Teresa, September 5th. International Day of Charity was created with the intention of inspiring individuals and organizations from all corners of the globe to engage in charitable and volunteer work. This is a mission our Order fully supports.

Mother Teresa became an emblem of Christian generosity as a result of her work with Calcutta's (renamed Kolkatta in 2001) impoverished people. It made her an instantly recognizable figure around the world. She passed away on September 5, 1997, at the age of 87. The International Day of Charity was first marked by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012.

Since we have a large portion of members who are employed, the day of September 5th would likely fall on a day during the work week in several subsequent years, therefore we have chosen the second Saturday of every September as our Order's Day of Charitable Service. Alternatively, if a members'

community has an organized event in the month of September that they could become involved, that day would also be most acceptable.

The charitable service or volunteer work may consist of a variety of things, generally works of service that would best serve each members' own community, for a minimum of four hours, if possible. If geographic location allows, we encourage members of Pories to work together. If geography prevents that, then members are encouraged to perform their charitable service individually, by including family and friends, if they can. Here is just one website that offers a variety of service project ideas:

<https://www.dosomething.org/us/articles/community-service-project-ideas>

***"Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon."***

***-Isaiah 58:10***

Below are a set of specific instructions on how members are to report their service projects. For the maintenance of Order records, OMSDT members are asked to make a report to their Priory leader summarizing their service project. Priory leaders will, in turn, submit all service project reports they receive from their members to the Grand Secretary by September 26th so they may be added to our recordkeeping, history of projects, as well being included in our monthly newsletter. The service reports should include:

Date, location, names of those who participated, description of the service work performed, length of time spent on service project for each member, and a few photos of members working at the physical location. Also, members should keep any receipts for expenses they personally incur for their charitable works of service, such as tools or supplies purchased for the charitable work (not for reimbursement, but for a matter of recordkeeping regarding our non-profit status), and submitting those photos and receipt copies, along with the report to their Priory leader.

Below are two examples of Service Project Reports:

#### **EXAMPLE 1**

Service Project Report for XYZ Priory, OMSDT Knights Templar  
9-9-23

McConnell Food Bank, McConnell, NV

Members who participated: Joe Benson and Samuel Anderson

Project: Built an ADA approved wheelchair ramp for the McConnell Food Bank

Hours spent 8 hours each. We used our own tools and purchased the following supplies from our own funds:

Lumber \$374.23

Screws \$73.27

Stain \$38.29

Total Expenses: \$485.79

We have the receipts and three pictures that will be scanned and sent to our Priory leader, Benjamin Griffin.

## EXAMPLE 2

Service Project Report for ABC Priory, OMSDT Knights Templar

9-9-23

Ridgeview Campground, Ridgeview, MA

Members who participated: Martin Vinson, Cathy Walker, and Franklin Browne

Project: With permission from the camp host, Victor Peterson, we picked up trash all around the campground; community areas such as picnic tables and hiking and walk paths; honoring the privacy of all campers.

Martin Vinson and Franklin Browne 4 hours each and Cathy Walker 2 hours. We provided our own trash bags and left the trash with the camp host to be properly disposed of with the regular campground trash. We incurred no expenses and two pictures will be scanned and sent to our Priory leader, Dennis Hampton.

If members should have any questions at all regarding the Day of Charitable Service or questions about a service project, please ask your Priory leader. Members should make wise choices for their service project and never put themselves in a compromising or injurious situation with regard to their choice of a service project. Also, members should be aware that they should make all reasonable efforts to self-indemnify themselves while performing their service projects. All service projects are done voluntarily and for God's glory.

For instance, if a member chooses to clean a park for his service project and he steps on a rusty nail and requires medical attention, a tetanus shot, and three days off from their job, it would be a very sad situation if that member sought a lawsuit against the city where the park is located, seeking damages with regard to the injury, medical reimbursement and loss of wages. It would be an entirely different scenario; however, if a member is hit and run over by a moving vehicle, owned by the city and driven by a city park employee when the member was merely bending down in a park walkway to pick up a tossed piece of garbage and suffered a horrible, crippling and debilitating injury. So, please, make every effort to keep yourself safe and from harm during your service project. Let's make this day a day of heartwarming service with a desire to glorify God and to make our own communities a better place.