



FRATERNAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

Activities chapters/clubs could hold during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Matching Fund

- Host a virtual fundraiser to help raise money for students who have technology needs while homeschooling. Consider working with a local school or organization that is focused on fulfilling this need.
- Host a virtual fundraiser to help a person with a disability obtain a guide dog or therapy animal; assistive technology for their disability (e.g. text-to-speech or dictation devices); or other items to help with their disability. Members can help create the fundraiser, promote the event and participate.
- Work with a fitness studio/instructor to host a virtual fitness class via [Facebook Live](#). You and members can help promote the event and participate. The proceeds for the class can go to a local organization and your chapter/club could match the amount raised. *Make it a social event by simply participating with members.*
- Work with a local organization that is hosting a virtual walk, race, bingo, or trivia event. You and members can help promote the event and participate. *Make it a service project instead by donating and/or purchase items needed for the event. Make it a social event by simply participating with members.*

Service Project

Reach out to the recipient to find out what is needed. You'll also want to understand how the recipient prefers to receive any donation (drop off, pick up, mail/ship, etc.)

Collect and Donate

For these projects, encourage members to collect or purchase the needed items. The chapter or youth club could purchase some additional items or supplies to supplement what members provide. Use curbside pickup if the recipient is amenable or identify a drop-off location for members to use. If appropriate, use the "donated by" stickers available for ordering in the Supplies area on imakeanimpact.org.

- Hold a donation drive for a local organization needing specific supplies.
- Create care baskets for healthcare workers with snacks, high-quality hand cream, pens, chocolate and other treats, handmade cards, bath products, essential oils, etc.
- Collect and donate board and card games, puzzles, kids' books, educational workbooks, magazines, crafts, bubbles, etc. to local shelters/nursing homes to keep residents occupied.
- Collect baby dolls to donate to memory care patients. (See the "Make and Donate" section for another spin on this idea.)
- Work with a local school or organization to help supply children with meals or other necessities while they are at home.
- Collect and donate eyewear, hearing aids, etc., needed by those with disabilities.
- Create "[Jared Boxes](#)" for children in a local hospital, receiving chemo treatments or other care.

Make and Donate

For these projects, provide written or video instructions for members. Consider doing a [Facebook Live](#) event to demonstrate how to create the items. Ask members to sign-up to make the needed items. The chapter or youth club could purchase some of the supplies, if needed. Use curbside pickup if the recipient is amenable or identify a drop-off location for members to use. If appropriate, use the "donated by" stickers available for ordering in the Supplies area on imakeanimpact.org.

- Make or collect the materials needed to make face masks for nursing home residents, a center for people with disabilities, front-line workers, etc.
- Order and make "[Bday Bears](#)" to donate to memory care patients. (See the "Collect and Donate" section for another spin on this idea.)
- Make [weighted blankets](#) or [sensory bins](#) for children with autism and sensory sensitivities. Donate to a local organization that serves children with emotional or mental disabilities.

- Knit or crochet shawls for the elderly and donate to a nursing facility.
- Make decorative picture frames for high school seniors. Use school colors and write “Class of 2020 Memories” on the frame.
- Create “College Essentials” pails for high school seniors. Ask members to provide one or more things college freshmen need: detergent pods, to-do list pad, water bottle, small dry erase board, Command® hooks, etc. Enclose a member-created graduation card in each.

Send Kind Words

For these projects, ask members to make homemade cards or write letters of support for different groups. Provide examples of messages members can include. Members could then mail the cards or letters to the recipient organization. The chapter or youth club could supply some of the materials.

- Make/write cards and letters to healthcare workers, nursing home residents, hospice patients or children living in shelters.
- Make thank-you cards for blood donors.
- Write/send “Thinking of you” cards to disabled veterans or shut-ins.
- Send “Thinking of you” cards to people undergoing chemotherapy for cancer or other patients.
- Send graduation cards to local high school seniors. Consider collaborating with another chapter/club to make enough for the entire graduating class.

Other Ideas

- Donate blood and plasma to benefit COVID-19 patients. Encourage members to sign-up to donate blood (on their own) during a specific period of time. Ask members to text a copy of their “I donated blood sticker.” to help track participation. Send a note of thanks to each member who participates.

Educational Event

Speaker/Presentation

For these projects, invite a speaker to present a specific topic to members using [Zoom](#) or [Facebook Live](#).

- Invite a healthcare professional to speak about risk factors associated with COVID-19; s/he can encourage members to make any needed lifestyle changes.
- Ask someone who works with people with disabilities, or an expert on a disability, to speak about the disability and the local opportunities available to help people with that disability. If the person works at a facility, perhaps he/she could provide a brief tour of what it offers individuals.

- Invite an expert to teach members the basics of American Sign Language.
- Invite a representative from NAMI to speak about signs of mental illness or how to speak to people with mental health issues.
- Host a virtual event to educate parents or adults on how to speak to children about people with disabilities.
- Ask a local historian to speak on the history of the community. Perhaps he/she can conduct a virtual walking tour of a historic neighborhood or site.
- Ask a local restaurant owner to provide a virtual “behind-the-scenes” tour of the restaurant. Perhaps he/she can discuss how COVID-19 has changed their business practices or keep it light by talking about the history of the business or showing how to make a signature dish.
- Ask a docent at a local art museum to provide a personal virtual tour of some of its more appealing works.
- Ask a local musician to give a private virtual concert featuring songs associated with the community or state.
- Invite a local genealogist to explain how members can research their family history, including online resources, as well as those available locally.
- Ask a local cemetery sexton to take members on a virtual tour of the cemetery, pointing out noteworthy local individuals or grave marker symbolism.
- Ask a local hairstylist to show creative ways to deal with too-long layers, gray roots, hot-weather hairstyles, etc.
- Invite a mental-health expert to offer tips on thriving during a pandemic.

Demonstration/Activity

For these projects, invite someone to teach a new activity to members using [Zoom](#), [Facebook Chat](#), or [Facebook Live](#).

- Invite members to attend a virtual fitness class to learn a new way to exercise.
- Ask a local dietician or chef to conduct a virtual cooking demonstration for members. Share the list of necessary ingredients and cooking supplies with members ahead of time. Afterward, you and members could enjoy the meal together virtually and discuss the experience and whose meals turned out well (or not so well).
- Ask a local bartender at a local pub to demonstrate how to make seasonal alcoholic/nonalcoholic beverages. *Refer to the [Fraternal Leader Handbook](#) to review the “Alcohol Consumption at Chapter Functions Policy.”*
- Share your own hobby or special interest with members or invite members to share. Showcase any collections or demonstrations, explain how you got started with the hobby, include tips or suggestions for anyone who wants to try it, and any other information that might be relevant.

- Invite members to share their latest at-home project (i.e. gardening, landscaping, etc.). Include tips or suggestions for anyone who might be interested in doing something similar and any other information that might be relevant.
- Hold a virtual “Show and Tell.” Ask each participant to show a possession that is meaningful to him/her. Participants can talk about the item and answer questions from other participants.

Social Events

Consider making any of the items listed under “Educational Events” as a social event.

- Host a virtual trivia night for members. Use the [Trivia Contest project guide](#) or participate in a virtual trivia event organized by another organization.
- Invite members to participate in a virtual bingo event.
- Invite members to attend a virtual fitness class, such as yoga or Zumba.
- Host a [Facebook Watch Party](#) for members in your chapter or youth club’s closed group.
- Host a virtual breakfast, lunch or dinner party with members. Ask members to “bring” their meal of choice to the virtual event to enjoy while chatting with you and other members. Consider having [conversation starters](#) ready, if there is a lull in the discussion.

Hometown Hero

Research prospective Hometown Heroes and ask members for their input. Consider COVID-19 or Together For Good-related Hometown Heroes in the community. Consider creating a Facebook poll so members can cast their votes. Purchase a plant, wind chime, basket filled with local goodies or another item to present to the Hometown Hero, along with the certificate. Hold a [Facebook Live](#) or [Zoom](#) event to surprise the honoree. Invite members and other attendees to share what the recipient (or his/her organization) means to them.

- Recognize a local person with a disability who has made an impact in the community.
- Honor someone in your community who’s made a major impact on a person(s) with a disability and/or their family.
- Recognize the founder or leader of a local nonprofit organization that supports people with disabilities.
- Honor a first responder or other medical professional(s) for their services during COVID-19.
- Recognize a local person or organization who made a major impact during COVID-19.
- Recognize an owner or staff at an “essential business” for their services during COVID-19.