

## CIVIC PROJECT IDEAS

These ideas are presented by Redbank Renaissance. It is hoped that these ideas will help students and community groups find useful projects that will give them great satisfaction and be of benefit to the community. If you need assistance or have questions on any of the following projects, please contact Sandy Mateer at 814-275-1718 or Gordon Barrows at 814-275-6714.

1. Pick a community group, attend their meetings and see if you can help in any way.
2. Join trail volunteers to adopt a mile or segment and help with maintenance, drainage, litter pick up and brush cutting on the second Saturday of each month or other times.
3. Design and or contribute segments to a genealogy website for the Redbank Valley Historical Society.
4. Prepare a database and listing of all the graves in a local cemetery to be added to the Redbank Valley Historical Society of Find-a-Grave websites for genealogy information and for a cemetery display case. Connect the information to large genealogy websites. Look at [Distantcousins.com](http://Distantcousins.com) as an example. (Possible group project.)
5. Update the Borough's cemetery maps in a database.
6. Design and build lane markers for the cemetery. (The lanes have flower names!)
7. Help the library index and computerize old obituaries from the microfiche readers and [The Leader-Vindicator](#) records.
8. Write histories of area buildings or people or events in area history for inclusion in Historical Society website. (Search old newspapers, County Land Records and interview older residents.)
9. Research and design historical markers for buildings in New Bethlehem.
10. Assist [The Leader-Vindicator](#) in indexing old articles from their microfiche readers.
11. 1 or more students could work with a group of people on "Christmas in April" projects. (Student would coordinate with churches and Redbank Renaissance to find residents in need of assistance in maintaining their homes. Then organize a group of people to work one or two weekends on one house to provide improvements, such as repairing plumbing, painting, cleaning, landscaping.) This would be similar to a Habitat for Humanity Project, but not as involved. Local contractors could be invited to help and would be paired with a student to teach the student how to do various projects.
12. Plan and design walking trails in community for walking trails leading to and from the Trail.
13. Design and implement service projects to assist the elderly.
14. Work on river bank beautification.
15. Mentor and tutor elementary school or younger children. (Big Sister/Big Brother)
16. Assist Borough's Long Range Planning Committee and Redbank Renaissance with project planning and development (for example, apply for historic building or district status, work on research and data collection for updated comprehensive plan.)
17. Help local businesses improve the facades of their stores or businesses. (Painting, cleaning and window design.)
18. Help local businesses create web pages to promote their businesses.
19. Help local businesses with grant applications for renovations, etc.
20. Help local businesses create a business plan.
21. Landscape the area across from the mini-mall along 28 below the trail.

22. Gather information on people who have served in the Armed Forces, design a memorial and present to Borough Council, Township, Chamber of Commerce or other groups for construction of the memorial.
23. Organize childcare for parents attending events at the high school.
24. Write a history of a high school class (or some of the members of a class) to contribute to the library or Historical Society.
25. Help Chamber of Commerce committees with projects (4<sup>th</sup> of July, Peanut Butter Festival, contests, advertising and website).
26. Help the Garden Keepers Committee of Redbank Renaissance with garden planting and maintenance.
27. Help manage the Farmer's Market or run a table at the market as a fundraiser for class goals.
28. Videotape and produce a DVD for the Mountain Bike Race at the Peanut Butter Festival.
29. Do a DVD promoting the Redbank Creek by kayaking and filming on the water.
30. Landscape the area to the left of the New Bethlehem/South Bethlehem elementary school. (Plant low maintenance perennials and bushes to improve safety and appearance.)
32. Design and organize fund raising projects for Redbank Renaissance or other community groups, such as car washes, plays, talent shows, etc.
33. Organize litter clean up and other clean up events.
34. Research feasibility of recycling in local municipalities and present ideas and plans to local governments.
35. Work with Creekside property owners to install kayak launches.
36. Plan and implement projects in conjunction with the trail such as fisherman access at the Bostonia/Trail Volunteer bridge, addition of benches, picnic tables.
37. Help plan and operate trail fundraisers to add portojohns along the trail.
38. Volunteer to assist the Redbank Valley Church Association food bank.
39. Pick up and dispose of litter when you see it.
40. Volunteer with the Fire Department, fire police or auxiliary.
41. Volunteer to help the Borough with planters along Broad Street.
42. Attend Borough Meetings and consider becoming a Junior Council member.
43. Organize Great PA Cleanup for Earth Day in April, see [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) or plan other community clean up, litter control and recycling events.