

COMMUNITY DOG WASH

Gathering Together/Events

FOCUS	☐ Internal ☒ External
VOLUNTEER BASE	☒ General corps membership ☒ External volunteers ☐ Youth ☐ Music sections ☐ Women's ministries ☐ Seniors' ministries ☐ Social mission
TARGET POPULATION	☐ Seniors ☐ Youth ☐ People with disabilities ☐ Caregivers ☐ New Canadians ☐ Social mission ☒ Other- community members, pet owners

Event description:

This event is a fun, community-centred outreach designed to connect with local residents by offering a free dog-washing station. This event provides a casual, friendly atmosphere where pet owners can wash their dogs while meeting corps volunteers and learning about corps services and community programs.

Beyond offering a practical service, this initiative helps foster relationships between corps members and neighbours, providing an opportunity to share information about faith-based programs, community services and upcoming events.

What are the intended event outcomes?

- Provide a free, fun, and useful service to local pet owners.
- Create a welcoming space for the community to engage with corps volunteers.
- Promote corps activities, services and volunteer opportunities.
- Encourage donations of pet food and supplies for families in need.
- Collect community contact information for future engagement.

How will these outcomes be evaluated?

Volunteers keep a clipboard or clicker counter to track:

- Number of participants (e.g., dogs washed, people engaged).
- Flyers or brochures handed out.
- Pet food/supply donations received.

This is quick, visual and low-effort, ideal for station volunteers to manage casually throughout the event.



Using a quick tally sheet or a shared notebook at the hospitality table or welcome station, ask volunteers to note:

- How many meaningful conversations they had (e.g., shared info about corps programs).
- How many people provided their contact info (email or phone).

What procedures are required to set up this event?

Event location considerations:

- Space with water access (e.g., corps parking lot or public park with water hookups).
- Good drainage and easy public access.
- High-traffic areas near dog parks or walking trails.

Volunteer roles and responsibilities:

- **Welcome team:** Greets attendees and provides corps/program information.
- **Dog wash team:** Assists with supplies and supports pet owners.
- **Hospitality team:** Provides beverages/snacks and engages in friendly conversation.
- **Promotion and engagement team:** Shares information and gathers email contacts.
- **Pet food drive team:** Oversees donation station for pet food and supplies.

Marketing and promotion:

- Flyers and posters placed in local pet shops, vet clinics, grocery stores and bulletin boards.
- Social media posts on corps channels and local community groups.
- Event listings on community calendars and websites.
- Tear-off flyers for easy reminders with event details.

What procedure is required to operate this program?

Dog washing stations:

- Supplies: hoses, buckets, shampoo, towels.
- Volunteers assist while pet owners wash their dogs.

Community engagement and promotion:

- Distribute promotional material.
- Collect email addresses for newsletters and events.

Hospitality table:

- Light refreshments (coffee, tea, water, snacks).
- Conversation to foster relationships.

Pet food and supply drive:

- Advance promotion to encourage donations.
- Clear collection area for donated goods.

Are there financial costs attached to providing this program?

The financial cost of hosting a Community Dog Wash event is relatively low and can be scaled based on available resources. Primary expenses may include dog wash supplies (shampoo, towels, hoses), hospitality items (coffee, tea, snacks), promotional materials (flyers, signage) and optional giveaways (treats or branded items). Additional costs may arise if renting a location or equipment is required. Many items can be donated or sourced through community partners or corps supplies. A modest budget of \$200–\$500 is typically sufficient, depending on the size and scope of the event.

What physical resources will I require?

- Water hoses and buckets.
- Dog shampoo and drying towels; waste bags.
- Treats for dogs.
- Tables and chairs for hospitality and registration.
- Coffee, tea, bottled water, light snacks.
- Clipboards and pens for email sign-ups.
- Promotional materials: pamphlets, flyers, event invites.
- Bins or boxes for collecting pet supply donations.

Would any additional training be necessary for volunteers with this program?

No formal training is required to participate in the Community Dog Wash event. However, a brief orientation or pre-event huddle is recommended to:

- Review roles and responsibilities.
- Go over event logistics and safety (especially around handling animals).
- Reinforce the importance of hospitality, inclusivity and respectful engagement.

For more information:

For additional guidance, resources, or support in planning your Community Dog Wash event, please contact the community mission department at territorial headquarters for sample materials, best practices and consultation on outreach strategies.