

Big Sunday Weekend – The 411



**Wow! I want to help on May 1, 2 & 3.
Where do I begin?**

First off, thanks. We know how busy everyone is, and appreciate your taking time out to help someone else.

There are tons of different things going on throughout Big Sunday Weekend 2015. In an effort to make it simpler, we've devised *Big Sunday 411* to help you figure out the best way to get involved.

- 1. Sign up to volunteer.** You'll find hundreds of projects that need volunteers. Each project listed tells you what the project entails, where it is, how long it lasts, how many volunteers are still needed, and if there are any age requirements. This list includes all kinds of projects, from heavy-duty painting or yard work to projects that need different talents, such as playing a sport, sewing, singing, or just being friendly. Keep checking the list. We add projects all the time!

Please remember: At Big Sunday, we firmly believe that it's not the what, it's the how. Big Sunday is all about everyone working together and putting their best foot forward and all hands on deck. Even if you don't get your first choice of a project, please know that your good help and great spirit are much needed and appreciated elsewhere! Thanks.

- 2. Searching for the "right" project.** Check out the HELP page (top right on the projects page) if you are having problems finding what you are looking for. There are some nifty tips that will help. Most of the projects are marked with icons designed to let you know quickly what they are. These include:

- **Arts**
- **Animals**
- **Drives (aka Collections)**
- **Environment**
- **Homeless**
- **Hunger**
- **Lemonade stands**
- **Military**
- **Parties**
- **Schools**
- **Seniors**
- **Youth**

- 3. What if the project I want to do is full?** We've learned that the only thing worse than no volunteers is too many volunteers. If a project you want to sign up for is full, please look for something else. There are plenty of other places that really need your help! We greatly appreciate your flexibility, and willingness to change your plans to help someone else. But if you're really set on something, keep checking! We sometimes get cancellations so spaces may open up.

4. **Gotta Group?** Groups of all kinds and all sizes are always welcome at Big Sunday events! Depending on the size of your group, you might have a project to yourself, or you might be mixing it up with other folks. If you have a group from your business, school, house of worship, or a group of friends or families, and are looking for a good place to go contact rob@bigsunday.org. He can help point you in the right direction.
5. **You want to help, but there's no project near you.** No problem! If you have a project you'd like to do that's not on the list, let us know! This year we're doing events in 8 different states, and are always looking for new people, places and causes to get involved. Contact berenice@bigsunday.org. Please note: Once the schedule is posted it is unlikely that we can provide funding for additional projects. We can, however provide a bunch of other things. Also remember that Big Sunday projects focus on the things that we all have in common. As such, we do not do projects with a religious or political agenda. If you have questions about whether your project fits, ask Berenice about that, too!
6. **Lemonade Stands.** You can host a Big Sunday Lemonade Stand whenever you want, Friday, Saturday, Sunday or every day and wherever you want. (Anywhere! See #5 above.) Once again, this year, we're using Lemonade Stand proceeds towards the Big Sunday program called **The Big Sunday Emergency Fund**. Our goal is to raise money to help support our community in times of crisis or emergency. In the past this has included everything from buying furniture for a vet, to shoes for dozens of kids at a low-income school, to covering the funeral expenses when a child died tragically. All we ask is that your stand is open for at least two hours on Big Sunday Weekend. You can host one anywhere, but if you need a venue, let us know and we can help. And we'll advertise your event, too. Please contact davidmcb@bigsunday.org for more information. Just don't forget to stop by and pick up your Big Sunday t-shirt! And by the way, if you'd like to host a lemonade stand for another nonprofit cause, that's okay, too. Just let us know the nonprofit organization.
7. **In-Kind Donations:** Each year Big Sunday volunteers give away truckloads of new and used clothes, books, food, furniture, musical instruments, and other items. We get all kinds of requests. Our rule of thumb is "Whatever you have, we can use." (Except green hair dye, like we got seven years ago and still can't get rid of.) This year we're collecting all kinds of new and gently used **clothes, books, sporting equipment, musical instruments and instruments**. We also need **non-perishable food, new socks, new underwear, toiletries, and first aid equipment**. (And the requests keep coming!) Check our homepage and Facebook to see new additions and our greatest needs. **Questions? Want to get more involved? Great! Contact Stephanie at collections@bigsunday.org**. Items you don't know what to do with? Bring them to Big Sunday offices at 6111 Melrose Avenue in Los Angeles throughout April, Monday through Friday, 9-5.
8. **Ground Control:** Ground Control for Big Sunday Weekend will be our wonderful offices at 6111 Melrose Ave. in Los Angeles. The phone number here is 323-549-9944. We'll be here from 9 – 5 throughout Big Sunday Weekend. For more information, contact berenice@bigsunday.org.

- 9. The Big Sunday Kick-In Kick Off and The Big Sunday Kick-In Kick Back.** On Big Sunday Weekend, volunteers are needed to count, sort, pack, and sometimes even deliver all these donated items to worthy and grateful nonprofits throughout Southern California. If you like, you can bring your items to our offices – 6111 Melrose in LA – on Big Sunday Weekend. While you're there, you can help us sort things. There will be other projects going on, too. Or, if you like, you can just bring your donation, hang out, have a snack, and sit and schmooze with some other nice people, making a new friend and enjoying life. (As we like to say at Big Sunday, "It's all good!") The Kick-Off is 9-12 on Friday, May 1. The Kick Backs are Saturday May 2, and Sunday, May 3, and both days are from 9 -1.
- 10. Big Sunday T-shirts and Big Sunday Tsootchkes.** Everyone who participates in Big Sunday gets a free Big Sunday T-shirt, which are handed out at each event. There are also special, "premium" Big Sunday items, including T-shirts, hoodies, baseball caps, and mugs. You can get them with a minimum donation at Distribution Day and at the Big Sunday office on Big Sunday Weekend. If you would like to buy one before or after Big Sunday, please contact davidmcb@bigsunday.org or stop by the Big Sunday office.
- 11. Sponsor a T-Shirt:** As we mentioned, everyone who participates in Big Sunday gets a free Big Sunday t-shirt. But, unfortunately, they aren't free to us! We spend about \$2 a shirt – to help cover the costs, you can donate directly on our website by clicking here T-Shirts Donate!
- 12. I'm away that weekend. Can I still help?** Absolutely! Big Sunday has a year round calendar and there are countless kinds of ways you can help before and after Big Sunday Weekend. Please contact rob@bigsunday.org for a schedule of other great upcoming Big Sunday events.

Thanks for participating in Big Sunday Weekend 2015! We greatly appreciate your generous donations of time, talent, stuff and spirit!

The Big Sunday Team

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