

# Peace Day Challenge Action Ideas

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## STUDENTS

- Share a meal with a student from a different country.
- Help defuse or resolve a disagreement—in class or at home.
- If you play sports, meditate on peace during your stretches and warm-up exercises.
- Speak up when you see someone being intolerant or being a bully.
- Post messages of peace around your school.
- Show kindness to someone in your school or community who needs it.
- Engage in an act of volunteerism or service to help those in need or to make another positive difference that promotes peace locally or globally.
- Challenge people from your school to commit to 24 hours of peace on September 21st.
- Organize an event at your school to mark the International Day of Peace – it can be a school-wide assembly, a peace walk, an evening event, or a lunchtime program to highlight peace themes, draw attention to the day, and spark further conversation among the students.
- Create a Peace Club in your school or community, to educate yourselves about peacebuilding, gain new skills, and identify ways to take action! Find out how with our Starter Kit!
- Read a book about peace to a younger sibling or neighbor.
- Find a quote about peace that inspires you to act, and share the quote and the action using #PeaceDayChallenge.
- Make a personal pledge to be a peacebuilder from now on, by seeking nonviolent ways to manage conflict and by seeking out opportunities to take positive action for peace in your community and in the world.
- Create a “peace pledge” for your school or organization or community, expressing your values and your commitment to taking action to build peace going forward.
- Create or contribute to a piece of public art, like chalk drawings or a mural, to raise awareness in your school and community about the International Day of Peace.
- Share photographs that help illustrate your vision of peace, either in person or online using the #PeaceDayChallenge.
- Make a video about a peace-related issue that matters to you and why; spread the word by sharing it with others on social media.

## TEACHERS

- Encourage your students to take collective action on September 21st around an important issue to advance peace in their school, community, or world.
- Support your students in organizing a Peace Club as a means for sustained learning and action for peace.
- Organize an event at your school to mark the International Day of Peace – it can be a school-wide assembly, a peace walk, a fundraising activity, an evening event, or a lunchtime program to highlight peace themes, draw attention to the day, and encourage conversation among the students.
- Discover diverse meanings of conflict with your students through Extension Activity 1, “Understanding the Language of Conflict through Metaphors,” from Lesson 1.1 in the Peacebuilding Toolkit for Educators – High School Version.
- Explore perceptions of peace through Lesson 1.2 in the Peacebuilding Toolkit for Educators – High School Version and Middle School Version.
- Encourage students to research peace symbols in the U.S. and in other parts of the world and ask them to design their own peace symbols in small groups.
- Discuss and analyze popular songs or movies with peace messages.
- Have students work in small groups to research proverbs around the world about peace and select one to present to the class. They can present the meaning of the proverb as a human statue, a drawing, or in some other way.
- Introduce your students to the process and skills of mediation using Lesson 2.9 in the Peacebuilding Toolkit for Educators – High School Version and Lesson 2.4E in the Peacebuilding Toolkit for Educators – Middle School Version.
- Check your students’ knowledge of peacebuilders and challenge them to learn more about individual peacebuilders in Lesson 3.1 of the Peacebuilding Toolkit for Educators – High School Version and Middle School Version.
- Help your students identify international, national, and local peace organizations and ways to support them in Lesson 3.2 of the Peacebuilding Toolkit for Educators – High School Version and Lesson 3.3 of the Middle School Version.
- Work as a school community to construct a symbol of peace—such as folding paper cranes, planting olive trees, or designing a peace path or peace garden—to serve as a reminder to pursue peace.
- On your own, with colleagues, or with your students, make a video about a peace-related issue that matters to you and why; spread the word by sharing it with others on social media using #PeaceDayChallenge.

## ORGANIZATIONS

- Post the Peace Day Challenge flyer in your office and share broadly on social media to raise awareness of the day and encourage broad participation in action for peace!
- Put a banner on your webpage linking to [www.peacedaychallenge.org](http://www.peacedaychallenge.org).
- Use September 21st as an opportunity to highlight some of the year-round activities your organization does to support peace, and encourage broader support, using #PeaceDayChallenge
- Use our Action Kit to organize an event to mark the International Day of Peace and raise awareness of a peace issue that matters to your staff or your members/network. There are many formats to choose from—a film screening, a book club discussion, a poetry reading, a public forum with a guest speaker, an inter-generational teach-in, a bake sale or other fundraising event to raise money for an organization that is working to help those affected by violent conflict, etc.
- Create or promote a group volunteer opportunity that will contribute to positive change in your local community, and encourage your staff and networks to join.
- Create an award or other form of recognition for local peacebuilders who are making a difference in your community.
- In your organization, make a video about a peace-related issue that matters to you and why; spread the word by sharing it with others on social media using #PeaceDayChallenge.
- In your organization, find a quote about peace that inspires you to act, or find/create an image that represents your vision for peace, and share as inspiration for others using #PeaceDayChallenge.

## FAITH LEADERS

- Challenge other faith leaders in your community or country to share in an inter-faith event to mark the International Day of Peace.
- Arrange a pot-luck dinner and invite practitioners of other faiths to attend and break bread.
- Select and share passages and proverbs from the Bible, Koran, Torah, etc. that promote peace and mutual respect of one another.
- Encourage followers to have a half-hour conversation with someone with whom they disagree.
- Challenge people from your community to commit to 24 hours of peace on September 21st.
- Encourage people from your community to engage in an act of service to help those in need or to make another positive difference that promotes peace in your area.

- Work as a group to construct a symbol of peace, such as folding paper cranes or planting olive trees, to serve as a reminder to pursue peace.
- Share photographs that help illustrate your vision of peace, either in person or online using the #PeaceDayChallenge

## POLITICAL/COMMUNITY LEADERS

- Spread the word about an organization that's working to help those affected by violent conflict around the world
- Challenge people from your community to commit to 24 hours of peace on September 21st.
- Post the Peace Day Challenge flyer in your office or community center to raise awareness of this day.
- Encourage schools, libraries, and bookstores in your community to promote books about peace themes, and to dedicate "story-time" activities for children to peace literature, on September 21st.
- Reach out to youth organizations to empower them take action on the Day of Peace.
- Highlight an issue on which you are working that advances the cause of peace, share what you are doing, and encourage others to join in at #PeaceDayChallenge.
- Find a quote about peace that inspires you to act, and share the quote and the action using #PeaceDayChallenge.
- Share photographs that help illustrate your vision of peace, either in person or online using the #PeaceDayChallenge.

## ARTISTS

- Compose, draw, paint or write something that represents your commitment to peace.
- Challenge musicians, artists or film-makers to collaborate on a shared peace-themed project.
- Create a community art piece in a public space. Encourage members of your community to play a role in making or building the art as well.
- Organize a peace-themed art show or concert within your community.

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*Above all - Share your Peace Day Challenge, and challenge your friends, family & co-workers to take action for peace, too!*

**#PeaceDayChallenge!**

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