**Texas Banks Working Together: A Guide to Collaborative Service for the 2025 Day of Service**

The Texas Day of Service is more than just a volunteer event; it’s a statement of shared values across our state’s banking community. Community banks have the power to multiply their impact when they come together. This guide outlines best practices for successful collaboration with fellow banks in your area to make this years’ service day the most impactful yet.

1. **Build Your Champion Team**

Form a small group of internal champions at your bank. Ideally 2–5 people who will take ownership of planning and communication. Then, connect with other local community banks to form a regional champion team. These are the people who will meet regularly and coordinate joint efforts.

* Meet biweekly or monthly starting no later than August 2025.
* Rotate meeting hosts or choose a neutral, central location.
* Keep meeting notes and send quick recaps to all partners.

1. **Collaborate on Projects**

Look for shared opportunities to serve together. Consider:

* Hosting joint service projects (e.g. food bank sorting, financial literacy workshops, park cleanups).
* Identifying regional needs or nonprofits that would benefit from a larger group effort.
* Letting one bank lead logistics while others provide manpower or supplies.
* When possible, choose projects that align with your bank’s values or outreach goals, but remain flexible and open to new ideas that come from your partner banks.

1. **Communication Is Key**

* Use a shared email thread or group messaging app (like Slack or GroupMe) to keep communication smooth.
* Assign point people for each task (registration, PR, logistics, supplies, etc.).
* Be clear about expectations: each bank should commit to showing up with a confirmed number of volunteers and share marketing responsibilities.

1. **Manage Headcounts & Registration Early**

Start gathering headcounts at least 6–8 weeks in advance of your project date. Use a shared registration link or sign-up form to:

* Track participation across banks
* Assign roles or shifts (if needed)
* Collect T-shirt sizes or lunch preferences (if provided)

1. **Share the Story — Together**

Maximize your impact by coordinating a joint PR strategy:

* Draft a shared press release to highlight your regional collaboration
* Encourage all banks to post the same day with shared hashtags (e.g., #TexasBanksServe or #DayofService2025)
* Take group photos that showcase the collaboration
* Tag each other’s institutions to extend your reach

1. **Final Tips for Success**

* Respect each bank’s capacity. Not every bank can send dozens of people—celebrate every contribution.
* Be inclusive. Invite all community banks in your area to participate, not just the largest.
* Debrief post-event. Set a short meeting 1–2 weeks after the Day of Service to share feedback, photos, and lessons learned.
* Document everything. Keep templates, contacts, and logistics info to reuse next year.