
Guidebook for Religious Class Teachers

Zoroastrians Stepping Forward

www.zoroastrianssteppingforward.weebly.com



Table of Contents



| | |
|---|---|
| Letter to Religious Class Teachers | 3 |
| Overview of Zoroastrians Stepping Forward | 4 |
| Lesson Ideas | 5 |
| Project Ideas | 6 |
| Sample Donation Poster | 7 |

Zoroastrians Stepping Forward

A NextGenNow Initiative

Dear Religious Class Teachers,

We, the organizers from Zoroastrians Stepping Forward, would like to invite you to join us in an inaugural event celebrating an international day of service. Our community has always been known for its generosity and good will towards fellow humans. In the past our ancestors built numerous schools and hospitals. As today's generation we want to follow in their footsteps and make positive contributions to society, and the world, just like Zarathushti groups have done in the past. We would like you to join our cause and make a difference.

This year, we are planning an International Day of Service on May 5, 2012. We invite you to get your communities involved, organize walks, and collect shoes. There are many people around the world who do not have this basic necessity that we all take for granted. Through our **Good Deeds**, we want to collect and donate as many shoes as possible.

We encourage you to plan lessons and hold events, with your religious classes, to encourage philanthropy and teach our youth how much the community has given them as individuals while teaching them to give back. For suggestions of organizations that support groups in your local community, see the list included in your center's resource manual.

Sincerely,
Behrose Taraporewalla, Lead
Farzin Avari, Youth Outreach Coordinator

Dear Fellow Zarathushtis,

The Zoroastrians Stepping Forward (ZSF) initiative was born from a NextGenNow (NGN) session at the Fifth World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in Vancouver, Canada (2011). Our goal is to raise awareness for those in need, by focusing on the distribution of shoes. Together, we can make a difference locally by addressing a global cause. Our leadership team, in collaboration with members of the NGN leadership team, is grateful for your time in reviewing our appeal for participation in the ***First Annual Zoroastrian Day of Service***.

WHY SHOES?

Many of us take shoes for granted. They ease our mobility and act as an accessory. But could you imagine living without them—working on a farm, going to school, or traveling along hot roads? Please join us this year and on the First Annual Zoroastrian Day of Service, to be held on May 5th, 2012.

WHY YOU?

We are asking for your support in making the Day of Service a success. Organize a day of fun with your community! Collect new or gently used shoes and/or help raise funds, for this important cause. There are many activities you can do, including: a sports day, picnic, silent auction or a community walk.

WHAT NEXT?

After collecting the new or gently used shoes, decide on where you can donate locally to make a difference. Choose from ***homeless shelters, orphanages, community groups, YMCAs, Amvets, Goodwill, and those within your Zoroastrian community*** who may benefit.

We look forward to sending you more details in the coming weeks and months. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us at zoroastrianssteppingforward@gmail.com or 626.378.5564 for more information.

On behalf of the Zoroastrians Stepping Forward and NGN leadership teams, we thank you for your time, interest and consideration. This project means a lot to many of us and we hope it means just as much to you. Let's follow in Zarathushtra's example by taking the first footsteps together with a good thought, a good word and a good deed.

Let's take the first step together!

Zoroastrians Stepping Forward Leadership Team
Behrose Taraporewalla, Los Angeles
Farzin Avari, Atlanta
Tanya Bharda, Toronto
Darius Jamsetjee, Chicago
Jerastine Jilla, Dubai
Cyrus Pooniwala, Chicago
Mantreh Atashband, NGN, Philadelphia
Jim Engineer, NGN, Chicago
Armaity Homavazir, NGN, Toronto

Lesson Ideas

We are excited that you are interested in getting your religious class(es) involved in our shoe giving movement. Below are some possible lesson topics that we have outlined for you to discuss with your students before or after your day of service, which you can use to reflect upon the extraordinary impact that you will make or have made.

Social service: Why is service to the community important? Who is most in need around the world? And in your community?

Humanitarian Efforts of Zarathushtis: Name Zarathushtis who have contributed to wisdom and service to the world. How did they accomplish their goals? What led them to begin their service? How have their effects changed their community?

Amesha Spentas: The Amesha Spentas are guardians of our world. How do the Amesha Spentas help us help others? How is each one involved in our day-to-day lives?

Poverty: What is it? What does it mean to live in poverty? Why does it have such profound effects on all aspects of a person's life? What can be done to rid the world of poverty? What has your contribution been through this service project?

Project/ Youth Event Ideas

Here are some ways to start projects amongst your students:

Religious Class Shoe-Drive

(Resource: <http://www.shoesthatfit.org/>)

Have a box for the donations of gently used shoes, at the beginning and conclusion of each class session. Encourage students and their families to contribute. To make this event more engaging for the youth, consider holding a class competition where all classes compete to collect the most shoes.

- *Invite friends and family to participate through phone, email, and Facebook.*
- *Ask your local school to host donation boxes for shoes and invite the students of the school to participate.*
- *Make a poster to hang at community centers around town and leave collection boxes.*
- *Ask a local radio station to help publicize your event.*
- *Write to your local newspapers, magazines, and online media to help publicize your mission.*

Organize a Run or Walk to Raise Funds for Charity

(Resource: <http://walkathonguide.com/>)

Get the entire community involved by organizing a Walk-a-Thon or a run. It can be as easy as finding a simple trail through a park. The best part is the community participating will instantly get to see the fruits of their labor. You can ask for participation by asking members to raise money, or collect pairs of new and gently used shoes.

Essay Competition: Humanitarianism and the Zoroastrian Faith

(Resource: none)

Zoroastrians for centuries have been known for their kindness and charity. We have many leaders who have paved the way for our generation. What humanitarian efforts has this generation made? What should our legacy be? How do we accomplish it? What do you want your legacy to be?

An Hour Without Shoes

(Resource: www.onedaywithoutshoes.com)

To illustrate what children experiencing great poverty live through, the adult leaders could create an obstacle course of sorts- where the kids experience walking through different types of terrains. For example, the kids might have to walk through a pool of ice water, then through mud, then on a pile of trash, etc. This will illustrate how hard it is to go without shoes. The kids can then reflect on how this made them feel and create a goal for obtaining shoes.



Zoroastrians Stepping Forward

Who: *You, your friends, and your family*

What: *Collecting shoes, run/walk*

When: *May 5th, 2011*

Where: *Your hometown*

Why? *Because thousands of people around the world don't even have this basic privilege, we all take for granted. So why not?*

May the glory of the good religion of Mazda-worshippers spread throughout the seven continents.

This year, let's do something to make a difference, change the world one step at a time!