

# No Sew T-Shirt Bag

An opportunity for teen volunteers  
in grades 6-12

Help local food pantries by making shopping bags for their customers using recycled T-shirts.

## Supplies Needed:

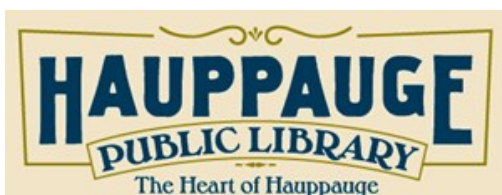
- A clean, large t-shirt you are willing to give up
- Scissors
- Optional: Fabric markers

## How to get credit:

Take a picture of your finished T-shirt bag and email it as an attachment to the following address: [help@hauppaugelibrary.org](mailto:help@hauppaugelibrary.org) with the subject line: Volunteer No Sew T-Shirt Bag. In the body of the email, include your full name, phone number, and grade level. Within approximately 5 days, you will receive notification of your community service credit. After emailing us, drop off your T-shirt bag to the Children's Reference Desk at the Hauppauge Library. We will deliver the bags to food pantries in batches. Important: The email/picture MUST be submitted for credit in addition to dropping off the item to us.

## Disclaimer

Disclaimer: Teens will receive one (1) hour of community service for one T-shirt bag. Max credit for this project is three (3) hours, which equals three (3) bags, per newsletter season: Winter (Dec/Jan/Feb); Spring (Mar/Apr/May); Summer (Jun/Jul/Aug); Fall (Sept/Oct/Nov).



## Instructions:

1. Turn the shirt inside out, cut the sleeves off of your old t-shirt, and discard the pieces. (Fold the shirt in half length-wise if you want to measure and make a more symmetrical cut.) This cut will create the handles of the bag.
2. Cut the neckline off of your shirt and discard. (Use a large bowl to outline a semi-circle over the neckline to create a clean look or just eyeball it.) This cut will create the opening of the bag.
3. Determine how deep you wish to make the bag, marking it with a line across the bottom of your shirt. (If you don't have anything to mark the line, fold the fabric up and iron the fold, or crease it with your fingernail, so you can see the line when you unfold it.)
4. Grab a pair of sharp scissors and cut one-inch slits from the bottom of your shirt to the line you just made. Cut through the top and bottom layers of the shirt, ensuring the slits match up.
5. Take your first pair of slits and tie it into a knot, and continue down the line. The pairs are pulling the bag together, but you'll notice there are gaps between each pair.
6. Close the gaps by tying one slit from one pair to a slit of another. Then, repeat!
7. Turn your bag inside out. (Optional: If you have fabric markers, consider making a design or write an inspirational phrase.)

## **Hauppauge Public Library**

1373 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Hauppauge, New York 11788 | (631) 979-1600  
[www.hauppaugelibrary.org](http://www.hauppaugelibrary.org)