

TEEN BUSINESS

BEYOND FRIENDS & FAMILY GUIDE

A guide to finding customers safely and realistically, without relying on people you already know.

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Method 1: Neighborhood “Micro-Areas” (Door Hangers + Short Conversations)

What to do:

Pick a small area close to home (one or two streets, a townhouse complex, or a few blocks). Offer one clear service and one clear starting price so people can decide fast. Keep it simple: who you are, what you do, and how to reach you.

Where to do it:

Close-to-home neighborhoods, HOA communities that allow it, apartment complexes (only with permission from the office), and local streets where you can stay visible and safe.

Example:

You choose one service and cover two nearby streets. You leave door hangers, then someone texts: “How much?” You reply with a short starting range and one quick question to confirm the price and schedule a time.

When someone responds, reply quickly, keep it short, and offer a specific time (or two options) to get the job booked.

Method 2: Local Places That Already Serve Your Customers (A Simple Referral Ask)

What to do:

Find places that already interact with the kind of customer you want, then ask if you can leave a small stack of flyers. Make it easy for them: one sentence about what you do and who it’s for. Don’t pitch 10 things. Pitch one.

Where to do it:

Places like coffee shops, libraries, community centers, print shops, phone repair stores, local hardware stores, gyms, salons, and club meeting spots. Choose places you actually visit so it feels normal.

Example:

You walk in during a slow time and say: “Hey, I live nearby and I help people with a simple service. If someone asks for that kind of help, can I leave a few flyers here?” If they say yes, you leave 10–15 flyers and thank them.

Before you go, bring 10–15 flyers with you and have your one-sentence description ready so you don’t have to think on the spot.

If someone texts or calls from a flyer, reply quickly, confirm what they need, and offer a specific time to make it easy to say yes.

Method 3: Community Boards + Local Online Posts (One Post, One Offer)

What to do:

Post a short message where locals actually look for help. Keep it clean: what you do, your service area, a starting price (or a “starting at” range), and the best way to contact you. Add one credibility detail like reliable, on-time, careful, or available on weekends. Only say what’s true.

Where to do it:

Physical boards: grocery stores, coffee shops, libraries, rec centers, and community bulletin boards.
Online: Nextdoor, local Facebook community pages (if allowed), neighborhood apps, and local buy/sell/trade groups that permit service posts.

Example:

Your post is one short paragraph with your service, where you work, a starting price, and your phone number. When people reply, you keep the conversation short, answer the question, and offer a specific time.

Quick safety notes (keep it simple):

- Work in daylight when possible.
- Tell a parent/guardian where you’ll be.
- Meet at the door or a public place, not inside someone’s home.
- If a situation feels off, leave.