

Frequently Asked Questions About Volunteering

Volunteering is one of the most satisfying, fun, and productive ways to unite people, enhance a community and set a good example for others. The possibilities are endless.

What types of things can volunteers do?

Pick up litter. Donate time at a community food bank or soup kitchen. Find an organization that serves the elderly. Take food to people who are homebound and visit with them. Volunteer at the local animal shelter. Help plant flowers or trees.

Reasons to Get Involved?

- **It feels good.** There is a feeling of satisfaction and pride when you help others and commit your time and effort to an organization or cause that you feel strongly about.
- **It strengthens your community.** When a community is doing well as a whole, its individuals are better off, too.
- **It can strengthen your family.** Volunteerism is a great way for families to have fun and feel closer. Volunteering can become a family tradition.

What Kids Can Learn From Volunteering?

- **Values.** If volunteering begins at an early age, it can become something a child may continue for the rest of their life.
- **A sense of responsibility.** By volunteering, kids and teens learn what it means to make and keep a commitment. They learn how to be on time for a job, do their best, and be proud of the results. But they also learn that, ultimately, we're all responsible for the well-being of our communities.
- **People can make a difference.** An empowering message for kids is that they can have an impact on someone or something else.
- **Tolerance.** Community service can bring people of different backgrounds, abilities, ethnicities, ages, education and income levels together to demonstrate that even the most diverse individuals can be united by common values.
- **Job skills.** Learning to work as a team member, taking on leadership roles and setting goals are skills that can be gained by volunteering and will serve kids well in the future. Community service can influence a young adult's future career choice.
- **The benefit of sacrifice.** Giving up a little recreation time to help clean up litter provides children with an opportunity to see that other things are important besides our own immediate needs.
- **How to fill idle time wisely.** If kids aren't involved in traditional after-school activities, community service can be a wonderful alternative.