

Volunteering: Basic information for Youth

We must become the change we wish to see in the world. – Mahatma Gandhi

Getting Started:

- Passion – Find a cause/social issue that is important to you. Seek to understand how volunteers are already utilized by this cause/social issue/organization.
- Consider your strengths/personality – planning, organizing, technology, teaching or listening to others.
- Calendar – Identify how many hours you are able to dedicate to volunteering
- Gather information necessary for volunteer documentation if needed for college applications or for a course.
- Transportation – Coordinate transportation with others or locate a bus route close to your home/school.

Points to Ponder:

- Smaller committees often form to support a greater volunteer effort – one can gain experience in marketing, planning or project management.
- Nonprofits may have questions too. Agencies might want to interview or meet new volunteers. Training or background checks may be necessary before beginning actual volunteer work.
- Consider volunteer opportunities in activities you are already involved with:
 - Church – welcoming newcomers, making coffee
 - Sports – Selling food at the concession stand/organizing equipment
 - School – Help in the office, organize events (dances, rallies, etc.)
- Think about your comfort level/compatibility with the opportunity