
Directory of Youth Service Opportunities



2011-2012

Opportunities for youth under 12 years old

Welcome!

By wanting to volunteer, you've already taken the first step! Now we're here to send you in the right direction toward helping the community.

This book is designed for people like you who want to make a difference. Opportunities listed in the directory were submitted by organizations registered with Volunteer Fairfax as of August 2011. Inside, you will find information on contacting nonprofit agencies, starting group projects, and beginning a service-learning program in your school. You will also find a complete guide to youth volunteer opportunities in Fairfax County.

If you have any questions after reading this guide or need more information on volunteer opportunities and getting started, please feel free to contact us at Volunteer Fairfax. Happy volunteering!

Contact Information

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Fax: (703) 246-4662

Website: www.volunteerfairfax.org

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2011-2012 Agencies

Agencies by Minimum Age

Any

American Diabetes Association
Capital Area Food Bank
Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run
Earth Sangha
Fairfax ReLeaf
Greenspring Village
Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry (NOVAM)

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Fairfax County Park Authority

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Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA)
SERVE, Inc.

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Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc.

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Arlington Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Breast Cancer Network of Strength
Herndon Parks and Recreation Department
Reston Association

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Colvin Run Mill Historic Site
Northern Virginia Training Center

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Celebrate Fairfax, Inc.
Fairfax County Public Libraries
Fairfax Station Railroad Museum
Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads
Neighbors International Foundation
NOVACO Inc.
Reston Interfaith, Inc.
Shelter House, Inc. – Patrick Henry Shelter
The Centreville Community Foundation
Western Fairfax Christian Ministries

Agencies by Mission

AIDS/HIV

Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry (NOVAM)

Children's Programs

Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA)
Arlington Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Celebrate Fairfax, Inc.
Herndon Parks and Recreation Department
SERVE, Inc.
The Centreville Community Foundation

Conservation/Environment

Arlington Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Earth Sangha
Fairfax County Park Authority – IMA Program
Fairfax ReLeaf
Herndon Parks and Recreation Department
Reston Association

Education

Capital Area Food Bank
Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run
Herndon Parks and Recreation Department
Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry (NOVAM)
NOVACO Inc.
The Centreville Community Foundation

Fine & Performing Arts

Arlington Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources

Health Services

American Diabetes Association
Breast Cancer Network of Strength
Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry (NOVAM)

Homelessness/Hunger

Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA)
Capital Area Food Bank
NOVACO Inc.
SERVE, Inc.

Museum/Tourism

Celebrate Fairfax, Inc.
Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run
Colvin Run Mill Historic Site
Fairfax Station Railroad Museum
The Centreville Community Foundation

Programs that help people with disabilities

Arlington Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Herndon Parks and Recreation Department

Seniors

Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA)
Arlington Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Greenspring Village
Herndon Parks and Recreation Department

Social Services

Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA)
NOVACO Inc.
Reston Interfaith, Inc.

Youth

Arlington Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Arts Council of Fairfax County
Fairfax County Park Authority - IMA Program
Herndon Parks and Recreation Department
SERVE, Inc.
The Centreville Community Foundation

Agencies by Location

Across Fairfax County

Fairfax County Park Authority
Fairfax County Public Libraries

Annandale

Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA)

Arlington County

Arlington Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources

Centreville

The Centreville Community Foundation

Chantilly

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries

Fairfax

Celebrate Fairfax, Inc.
Earth Sangha
Fairfax ReLeaf
NOVACO Inc.

Fairfax Station

Fairfax Station Railroad Museum

Falls Church

Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry (NOVAM)

Great Falls

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site
Neighbors International Foundation

Herndon

Breast Cancer Network of Strength
Herndon Parks and Recreation Department
Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc.

Manassas

SERVE, Inc.

McLean

Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run

Reston

Reston Association
Reston Interfaith, Inc.

Springfield

Greenspring Village

Washington, DC

American Diabetes Association
Capital Area Food Bank

American Diabetes Association

1025 Connecticut Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 331-8303 X4529

Contact: Nahome Mazengia
NMazengia@diabetes.org
<http://www.diabetes.org>



Mission Statement: The mission of the American Diabetes Association is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by the illness.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to assist with both administrative and in-office opportunities, such as helping with mailings and phone calls, as well as event-specific opportunities. Event volunteers are needed mostly on weekends and weekday evenings. Projects vary according to event.

Training: Training depends on the event.

Minimum Age: Varies

Minimum Age w/Adult: No requirement.

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekday evenings, Weekend days, and weekend evenings.

Public Transportation: Farragut North metro station.

Annandale Christian Community for Action

7200 Columbia Pike
Annandale, Virginia 22003
(703) 256-0100
Contact: Susan Farris
accacares@verizon.net
<http://www.accacares.org>



Mission Statement: The mission of ACCA will help anyone, of any or no religion, because they strive to serve neighbors in need.

Volunteer Opportunities: Youth volunteers with drivers licenses (or those accompanied by parents/guardians) can pick up food from the pantry and deliver it to neighbors in need. Youth can collect and deliver donated furniture with an ACCA team. Youth can organize food drives in their schools, churches, and sports groups, and can sort food and stock shelves in the ACCA food pantry on Columbia Pike in Annandale. High-school and middle-school community service hours are credited.

Training: Yes, training is short and takes place in 15 minute sessions at the food pantry.

Minimum Age: 12

Minimum Age w/Adult: 8

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, ACCA can organize groups of youth, from 2 to 200!

Times Needed: Weekdays after school, weekday evenings, weekend days, and weekend evenings.

Public Transportation: ACCA has only one program with a central location - the Child Development Center at 7200 Columbia Pike. Our food delivery, furniture collection/delivery, and medical appts. transportation programs require volunteers to provide their own (or parents') transportation to travel short distances in the Annandale/Bailey's Crossroads area.

Arlington Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources

2121 N. Culpeper
Arlington County, Virginia 22201
(703) 228-4730
Contact: Milada Weaver
mweaver@arlingtonva.us
<http://www.arlingtonva.us/prcr>



Mission Statement: The mission of Arlington Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources is to promote dynamic programs and attractive spaces that cultivate wellness and vitality throughout the community; offer healthy and fun recreation, sport and leisure choices; develop and protect natural and cultural resources; and provide opportunities for creative expression and intellectual growth.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers assist with adapted aquatics classes, summer camp aides, after school program assistants, skate guard or renter at roller skate nights, clerical work, helpers at special events, animal care assistants, park clean ups, removing invasive plants, and assist the 4-H club.

Training: Yes, in most cases the training is on the job.

Minimum Age: 13

Minimum Age w/Adult: 10

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, depends on the event - for spring stream clean up we can take up to 100, for most we can accommodate 3 -25.

Times Needed: Weekday mornings.

Public Transportation: No

Breast Cancer Network of Strength

135 S. Lasalle St, Suite 2000

Chicago, IL 60603

(877) 963-7223, x2742

Contact: Jillian Weleski

dcwalk@networkofstrength.org

<http://www.networkofstrength.org>



Mission Statement: The mission of the Breast Cancer Network of Strength is to ensure through information, empowerment, and peer support that no one faces breast cancer alone.

Volunteer Opportunities: Assistance is needed during the morning (between the hours of 6 AM and noon) to set up the site, hand out refreshments, staff booths, and more. This is a great one-time opportunity to fill community service hour requirements at your school.

Training: Yes, most orientation occurs onsite that morning. A few jobs require you to a brief phone training.

Minimum Age: 10

Minimum Age w/Adult: 10

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, groups of any size are welcome. If your group is interested in helping prior to Mother's Day, contact them and they will do their best to assign you to a fun and helpful project!

Times Needed: Weekend days.

Public Transportation: Yes. The Walk to Empower is accessible by bus or metro. Bus stops are on site. Metro stops are 2 blocks away.

Capital Area Food Bank

645 Taylor Street NE and 6833 Hill Park Drive
Washington, DC and Lorton, VA, DC 0
(202) 526-5344; (703) 541-3063

Contact: Nicole Durant, Michael McRae, Barbara Taha
volunteer@capitalareafoodbank.org
<http://www.capitalareafoodbank.org>



Mission Statement: The mission of the Capital Area Food Bank is to feed those who suffer from hunger in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area by acquiring food and distributing it through our network of member agencies; and to educate, empower, and enlighten the community about the issues of hunger and nutrition.

Volunteer Opportunities: Please contact the volunteer coordinator for a detailed description of volunteer opportunities.

Training: No

Minimum Age: 12

Minimum Age w/Adult: None

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Please contact the agency for further information.

Public Transportation: Varies based on location.

Celebrate Fairfax, Inc.

12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 247
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
(703) 324-5457

Contact: Meagan Butkus

Meagan.butkus@fairfaxcounty.gov

<http://www.celebratefairfax.com>



Mission Statement: The mission of Celebrate Fairfax is to spread celebration of Fairfax County throughout the community.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers serve in a variety of areas: costume characters, gate attendants, line monitors, assisting with arts and crafts activities, event preparations, etc.

Training: No

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekend days and weekend evenings.

Public Transportation: Yes, the organization is accessible by bus. The bus stop is located in front of the government center building (3-4 min walk).

Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run

6310 Georgetown Pike
McLean, Virginia 22101
(703) 442-7557
Contact: J-D Engle
jengle@1771.org
<http://www.1771.org>



Mission Statement: The mission of Claude Moore Colonial Farm is to educate the public about American agriculture through active participation and involvement in an 18th century low-income family farm and related programs.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer opportunities include both scheduled events for groups and individual volunteer opportunities for those needing community service hours or who just enjoy volunteering.

Training: No

Minimum Age: 12

Minimum Age w/Adult: No minimum

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekdays after school.

Public Transportation: Yes, the nearest Metro Bus stop is at the corner of Dolly Madison and Georgetown Pike, and is a little more than a mile from the Farm.

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site

10017 Colvin Run Road
Great Falls, Virginia 22066
(703) 759-2771

Contact: Mike Henry

Mike.henry@fairfaxcounty.gov

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm>



Mission Statement: The mission of Colvin Run Mill Historic Site is to maintain and interpret the historic buildings and collections at the site for the enrichment of Fairfax County residents and visitors as they relate to the themes of technology and community in rural Northern Virginia.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed for in site programs, maintenance, and ornamental gardening. Volunteers also give tours of the 19th century gristmill; this requires a commitment of at least one year.

Training: Minimal

Minimum Age: 13

Minimum Age w/Adult: 11

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekend days and weekends.

Public Transportation: No

Earth Sangha

10123 Commonwealth Blvd.

Fairfax, Virginia 22032

(703) 764-4830

Contact: Lisa Bright

lbright@earthsangha.org

<http://www.earthsangha.org>



Mission Statement: The mission of Earth Sangha is to operate an ecological restoration program to restore native forests and meadows, stabilize streams, and control invasive alien plants.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers will help with planting native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees in meadow, grassland, and stream-side forests. Volunteers will also help control invasive plants.

Training: Yes, about 30 min.

Minimum Age: 8

Minimum Age w/ Adult: No minimum age if accompanied by adults.

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekends.

Public Transportation: No

Fairfax County Public Libraries

12055 Government Center Parkway

Fairfax, Virginia 22035

(703) 324-8332

Contact: Erin Chernisky

Erin.chernisky@fairfaxcounty.gov

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library>



Mission Statement: The mission of the Fairfax County Public Library is to enrich individual and community life by providing and encouraging the use of library resources and services to meet the evolving educational, recreational and informational needs of the residents of Fairfax County and City of Fairfax.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers work throughout the library system helping with tasks such as straightening and organizing shelves, putting materials in alphabetical order, etc. There is a limited number of opportunities and spaces tend to fill-up quickly, so students should inquire early!

Training: Yes, training will be provided.

Minimum Age: 12

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? No.

Times Needed: Weekdays after school and evenings, and weekend days.

Public Transportation: Please visit the library's website.

Fairfax County Park Authority - IMA Program

12055 Government Center Parkway

Fairfax, Virginia 22035

(703) 324-8681

Contact: Erin Stocksclaeder

Erin.Stocksclaeder@fairfaxcounty.gov

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/ima/>



Mission Statement: The mission of Fairfax County Park Authority - IMA Program is to set aside public spaces for and assist citizens in the protection and enhancement of environmental values, diversity of natural habitats and cultural heritage to guarantee that these resources will be available to both present and future generations. They strive to create and sustain quality facilities and services which offer citizens opportunities for recreation, improvement of their physical and mental well being, and enhancement of their quality of life.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers will restore habitats within local parks that the youth of the community utilize.

Training: No

Minimum Age: 13

Minimum Age w/Adult: 5

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, minimum 5, maximum 20.

Times Needed: Weekdays after school and weekend days.

Public Transportation: No



Fairfax ReLeaf

12055 Government Center Parkway

Fairfax, Virginia 22035

(703) 324-1409

Contact: Taylor Beach

trees@fairfaxreleaf.org

<http://www.fairfaxreleaf.org>

Mission Statement: The mission of Fairfax ReLeaf is to conserve, restore and promote sustainable urban forests in Northern Virginia.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to help plant tree seedlings around Fairfax County during the planting season at organized planting events as well as volunteers looking to initiate their own planting projects! Volunteers are also needed to help with maintenance of planting sites during the off season as well as during the planting season.

Training: No

Minimum Age: 10

Minimum Age w/Adult: Any

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, No minimum. Maximum depends on the project - please contact ask.

Times Needed: Weekdays after school and weekend days.

Public Transportation: No

Fairfax Station Railroad Museum

11200 Fairfax Station Road
Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039
(703) 278-8833

Contact: Joan Rogers
friends@fairfax-station.org
<http://www.fairfax-station.org>



Mission Statement: The mission of the Friends of Fairfax Station, Inc., an all-volunteer organization, is to maintain and operate the rebuild Fairfax Station depot as a museum - interpreting its rich railroadd, Civil War, and local history.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers may help with special events on weekends, including large train shows; research projects; building and grounds projects; gift shop inventory, etc.

Training: Minimal

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Please contact the agency for further information.

Public Transportation: No

Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads

3440 S. Jefferson Street
Falls Church, Virginia 22043
(703) 578-7671

Contact: Amy Conradt
aconradt@goodwinhouse.org
<http://www.goodwinhouse.org>



Mission Statement: The mission of Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads is to support, honor, and uplift the lives of older adults and the people who care for them through a faith-based, nonprofit organization affiliated with the Episcopal Church.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed in the areas of computers, administrative volunteers, performers, groups, individual, activities volunteers, arts and crafts, etc.

Training: Minimal.

Minimum Age: 15

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, there are no limitations in this category.

Times Needed: Weekdays after school, weekday evenings, weekend days, and weekend evenings.

Public Transportation: Yes, by bus. It is located at the junction of Carlin Springs and Columbia Pike Metro bus J16.

Greenspring Village

7400 Spring Village Dr
Springfield, Virginia 22150
(703) 923-3131, x4780

Contact: Elke Martin

Elke.Martin@erickson.com

<http://www.ericksoncommunities.com>



Mission Statement: The mission of Greenspring Village is to share their gifts to create a community that celebrates life.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to visit senior residents, and play games with them. They can make music or engage in arts & crafts projects. They can be wheelchair escorts, or help in the dining rooms. They can assist in our tv-studio with camera, light and sound or help out in the fitness center.

Training: Yes, an hour training session is provided.

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: None

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekdays after school and weekend days.

Public Transportation: Yes, there is a shuttle service from the Springfield Metro Stop.

Herndon Parks and Recreation Department

814 Ferndale Avenue
Herndon, Virginia 20170
(703) 435 6800, x2134
Contact: Ann Marie Heiser
ann.heiser@herndon-va.gov
<http://www.herndon-va.gov>



Mission Statement: The mission of the Herndon Parks and Recreation Department is to promote a sense of community in the area. The Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department aspires to enrich the lives of its residents, serve as stewards of town resources, and foster a sense of community by providing diverse, accessible, and valued parks, facilities, and recreation programs in addition to those provided by Fairfax County.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers assist with programs, events, administrative and festivals.

Training: Varies based on event.

Minimum Age: 13

Minimum Age w/Adult: 10

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, minimum group size 3; maximum group size 25.

Times Needed: Weekdays after school, weekday evenings, weekend days, and weekend evenings.

Public Transportation: No

Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc.

336 Victory Drive
Herndon, Virginia 20170
(703) 437-0600
Contact: Eeva Newsom
esnewsom1@comcast.net
<http://www.herndonrestonfish.org>



Mission Statement: The mission of Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. is help to poor or otherwise distressed persons needing and requesting such help, for whom immediate help is not available through government or other social welfare agencies.

Volunteer Opportunities: The thrift shop, The Bargain Loft, in Herndon can always use help assisting the FISH volunteers with lifting, carrying and arranging items donated to the shop. Youth are needed to help at the FISH booths at the Herndon and Reston Festivals.

Training: Yes, on the job.

Minimum Age: 12

Minimum Age w/Adult: 9

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, groups (maximum 10) often help with the holiday basket programs. Call for more information. Groups help with the festivals. Size depends on the activity.

Times Needed: 10am-2pm Tuesday - Saturday.

Public Transportation: No

Neighbors International Foundation

1146-D Walker Road
Great Falls, Virginia 22066
(703) 759-2102

Contact: Sharon Rainey
sharon@neighborsfoundation.org
<http://www.neighborsfoundation.org>



Mission Statement: The mission of Neighbors International Foundation is to influence neighbors to provide funds and volunteer services to support their local charitable, educational, religious, public safety, and similar organizations that serve their neighborhoods and communities. NIF is a local community-based charitable giving network.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers may pack care packages for soldiers, bake goodies for police and firefighters, or write letters to soldiers.

Training: No

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, maximum of 12 volunteers at a time.

Times Needed: Weekend days.

Public Transportation: No

Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry (NOVAM)

803 W Broad Street, Suite 700

Falls Church, Virginia 22046

(703) 533-5505, x13

Contact: Lisa Katerman

lkaterman@novam.org

<http://www.novam.org>



Mission Statement: The mission of NOVAM is to educate the community about HIV/AIDS, to combat the fear, prejudice, and complacency that surround the disease, and to provide direct services to meet the needs of those who are living with HIV/AIDS.

Volunteer Opportunities: Youth volunteers can attend and distributing information at outreach events and health fairs, assemble HIV prevention packets, and assist with special events and administrative projects in the office.

Training: Yes, training is done on-site.

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult: N/A

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, for special events.

Times Needed: Weekdays after school. Evenings for events.

Public Transportation: Yes, NOVAM is centrally located between the East and West Falls Church metro stops. There are buses that run from each metro into the City of Falls Church.

Northern Virginia Training Center

9901 Braddock Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22032
(703) 323-4079

Contact: Ashley Barnett
marykate.barnett@nvtc.dbhds.virginia.gov
<http://www.nvtc.dbhds.virginia.gov/>



Mission Statement: To help individuals with intellectual disabilities LIVE LIFE"

Volunteer Opportunities: Special Event Assistant-At these twice a month activities, volunteers help escort people in wheelchairs to and from their on-campus home to the on-campus event. Typical events are movies, dances, concerts and sporting activities.

Training: Each volunteer must complete a volunteer application. At each activity, there will be an orientation specific to that event. If a volunteer plans to complete more than 10 hours of service in a year than they also most attend the mandatory new volunteer orientation.

Minimum Age: 15

Minimum Age w/Adult: 11

Is this organization group friendly? We are group friendly and special events are great activities for groups.

Times Needed: Times vary. Most events are Friday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm

Public Transportation: Yes, there is a bus stop located directly in front of our campus.

NOVACO Inc.

9677 A Main St.

Fairfax, Virginia 22031

(703) 425-2490

Contact: Victoria Heeley

vheeley@novaco.org

<http://www.novaco.org>



Mission Statement: NOVACO helps homeless victims of domestic abuse become healthy, secure and self-sufficient through community collaboration to provide housing, education, childcare, counseling and mentoring.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer opportunities include: making meals for families; tutoring clients or children; training to become a mentor to a family; office support; handyman skills to fix up housing units; client advocates; serving on Gala Committee; fundraiser events committee; and leading life skills classes.

Training: No training is needed.

Minimum Age: 15

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes.

Times Needed: Weekdays after school, weekend evenings, and weekend days.

Public Transportation: Yes. Close to the Fairfax Connector bus route. Just next door to Woodson High School.

Reston Association

12001 Sunrise Valley Dr

Reston, VA 20191

(703) 435-7986

Contact: Ha Brock

habrock@reston.org

<http://www.reston.org>



Mission Statement: The mission of Reston Association is to preserve and enhance the Reston community through outstanding leadership, service, and stewardship of our resources.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed for ongoing projects such as stream monitoring as well as monthly and seasonal activities. These include park and watershed cleanups, nature counts, and festivals.

Training: Any necessary training is performed on the job.

Minimum Age: 13

Minimum Age w/Adult: 10

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekend days and weekend evenings.

Public Transportation: No

Reston Interfaith, Inc.

11150 Sunset Hills, Road, Suite 210

Reston, Virginia 20190

(571) 323-9565

Contact: Mandy Guernsey

mandy.guernsey@restoninterfaith.org

<http://www.restoninterfaith.org>



Mission Statement: The mission of Reston Interfaith is to promote self-sufficiency by providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality child care, and other human services.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to help out with the drives: Back to School in August, Thanksgiving Baskets in November and Adopt-a-family Gifts in December. Helping to staff the Coat Closet in the winter and collect produce from the Reston Farmer's Market in the summer are other great family-friendly opportunities.

Training: Yes

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12, but sometimes depends on project.

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, this number will depend on the project chosen--there is often limited space and so if the group is particularly large, the project would most likely be conducted off-site.

Times Needed: Weekdays after school, weekday evenings, and weekend days.

Public Transportation: Yes, the Administrative office is a stop on the Fairfax County Bus line--however, you may have to walk 1/2 a mile depending on what bus is taken.

SERVE, Inc.

10056 Dean Drive, Manassas, VA 20110

Manassas, Virginia 20110

(703) 367-6725

Contact: Jan Hawkins

jhawkins@serveinc.org

<http://www.serveinc.org>



Mission Statement: The mission of SERVE, Inc. is to strengthen the western Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park community through comprehensive programs and partnerships that provide basic needs and promote economic independence for homeless and underprivileged individuals and families.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to assist with children's activities in the shelter and help sort food in the Food Warehouse.

Training: No

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult: 8

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, varies by groups, but no more than 15.

Times Needed: Weekdays after school, weekday evenings, and weekend days.

Public Transportation: No

Shelter House, Inc. - Patrick Henry Shelter

3080 Patrick Henry Drive
Falls Church, Virginia 22044
(703) 538-7105
Contact: Victor Dooley
victor.dooley@shelterhouse.org
<http://www.shelterhouse.org>



Mission Statement: To provide crisis intervention, temporary housing and support service, promote self efficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic family abuse in fairfax county.

Volunteer Opportunities: Youth volunteers benefit most from large group opportunities led by adults. These programs are developed on a case-by-case basis. Also, we work one-on-one with youth to develop drives in their communities and schools.

Training: Yes, about 30 min.

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Please contact the agency for further information.

Public Transportation: Yes, there is a metro bus stop located directly in front of the building.

The Centreville Community Foundation

PO Box 1813
Centreville, Virginia 20122
(703) 830-5407
Contact: Cheryl Repetti
ccf@centrevilleva.org
<http://www.centrevilleva.org>



Mission Statement: The mission of The Centreville Community Foundation is to build and maintain a compassionate, prosperous, and diverse community in the Centreville area. To this end CCF supports activities and organizations in the Areas of Arts, Youth, Education, Health, Economic Development and Community Improvement for the benefit of the citizens of the Greater Centreville Area.

Volunteer Opportunities: Youth volunteers are welcome to help out on Centreville Day, Saturday, September 13 2008. Volunteers are needed to help direct vendors and set up the event, help with the parade, assist with the information booth, conducting surveys and in the children's craft and activities area. Help is also needed to assist with break down and clean up.

Training: No

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, no minimum. For clean-up duties, no maximum. Limited number of tasks during the day

Times Needed: Weekend days.

Public Transportation: No

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries

13981 Metrotech Drive
Chantilly, Virginia 20151
(703) 988-9656, x3
Contact: Pam Ryan
volunteer@wfcmbva.org
<http://wfcmbva.org>



Mission Statement: The mission of Western Fairfax Christian Ministries is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, while providing life essential support to those seeking their assistance.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers can serve either in the Food Pantry or in the Thrift Store.

Training: No

Minimum Age: 12

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, the Food Pantry and the Thrift Store can each accommodate a group of up to six people. Arrangements for groups to volunteer must be made at least two weeks in advance of the dates they would like to volunteer.

Times Needed: Weekdays after school, weekday evenings, weekend days.

Public Transportation: Yes, there is a bus stop within a ten minute walk from our location.

Getting Started!

1. What is a Volunteer?

A volunteer is anyone who gives his or her time and talent by choice, does a good deed for free, helps others in the community and does real and important work.

2. Get Started Right Away!

Volunteer coordinators are often busy people, so it may take a week or two to set up an appointment. Some positions require time for training. And sometimes it takes a while to find a position that's right for you. By delaying your search, you reduce your chances of finding an opportunity you enjoy, or maybe finding one at all. So start today!

3. Think About What You Would Like To Do.

Think about your lifestyle, beliefs and values, talents and skills, your goals and limits. Ask yourself two questions: *"What issues are important to me?"* and *"What kinds of activities would I find enjoyable?"*

If you like working in an office, would you rather do that work for an environmental group or a health clinic? If you are passionate about working with young people, would you rather be a tutor or work in an after school sports program? Also consider how far you are willing to travel (can you use public transportation?) and how much time you can commit.

5. Search for Agencies that Look Interesting. Use this directory!

Look through this guide for opportunities that match your interests. Make sure the location and schedule work for you. Also, check the minimum age requirements. Some agencies are flexible about age limits, especially if you demonstrate initiative, maturity and enthusiasm or you bring an adult with you. Some agencies are not flexible. Call and ask!

6. Call the Organization.

Ask for the contact person listed or the current volunteer coordinator. If you have to leave a message, make sure that you include a time that you can be reached. Before calling the agency, plan what you are going to say. An example is:

"Hi, my name is _____ and I am ___ years old, I am interested in volunteering, and I would appreciate it if you could tell me more about your program. You can call me back at my phone number _____ around (convenient time)."

7. Ask Questions.

When you speak to the volunteer coordinator, tell her/ him about yourself. Find out if the organization is a good match for you. Some questions you may consider asking are:

- What does your organization do?
- What type of work would I be doing as a volunteer?
- Do you provide training?
- Who will be my supervisor?
- Where are you located?
- When do you need help?
- Do I need to commit for a certain amount of time?

8. Set up an Appointment and Visit the Organization.

By seeing the agency in action, you can get a good idea of what it will be like to work there. The volunteer coordinator may want to interview you before you start. Try to give the best impression of who you are and what you can do for the organization.

9. Communicate Your Personal Goals to the Volunteer Coordinator.

Make sure the volunteer coordinator understands what you want to get out of the experience, and that he or she agrees that your needs will be met within the position. You may want to set up a "contract" stating your expectations and goals, and those of the agency. Agreeing with the volunteer coordinator on what you want to accomplish reduces the chances of a bad volunteer experience.

10. Go For It!

If after getting all this information, the organization seems to be a good match, make a commitment and start volunteering. Good luck and have fun!

Helpful Hints

Don't Procrastinate:

Nonprofit agencies are very busy and sometimes hard to contact. If you wait until the last minute, you may find it difficult to get the volunteer position you want.

Be Realistic:

Pace yourself. It is easier to start small and increase your commitment than to have to back out because you have taken on too much.

Visit the Agency:

In order to know the agency, visit and ask lots of questions. Visiting the organization can give you valuable information about its mission and the job you may be doing as a volunteer.

Be Responsible:

Remember you are representing your generation and yourself. Be on time! If you are going to be late or unable to make your appointment, call ahead. Keep in mind that the work you do as a volunteer is always important and the agency is depending on you to fulfill your commitment.

Have fun!

Remember helping out does not have to be boring. You can meet people, gain skills, and even get a recommendation for a job or school. Most of all, make it an experience you will enjoy!

Group Projects

If you are interested in volunteering on your own, you can skip this page and the information on service-learning. **If you are an adult or youth leader of a group, a teacher, or anyone who wants to organize a project for a group of young people, then read on!**

A group service project is a great way to bring a group closer together while at the same time providing a service that is difficult for one person to do alone. The benefits of the experience can be amazing. However, group projects do take a little extra planning.

Here's how to get started:

Find an Agency

Browse through this guide for agencies that are in your area of interest. Make sure the agency is designated as "group friendly" by locating the "star" symbol next to the agency's name in the index of agencies.

If there is nothing that catches your eye, if the one agency that interests you is not listed as group-friendly or the minimum age doesn't match the age of your group participants, call them anyway. **Never be afraid to ask an agency if they need help!**

Put Together a Project

Contact the agency and let them know you were referred by Volunteer Fairfax. Tell them your group is interested in a group project. Ask them if they have, or could design, a special project for your group. It is also great to suggest projects. Agencies love new ideas! Be ready to discuss details such as when your group is available, how many people will be on hand, how many adults, the ages of the participants and how long you will be willing to work.

Keep the Agency's Needs in Mind!

Keep in mind the agency's accommodations and needs. Don't push anything that they may not be ready for. Remember, your group wants to help them, but only if they want the help.

Service Learning

Service Learning is a teaching strategy that links academic curriculum with service to the community. Community service and service learning have many similarities. Both emphasize civic responsibility, meeting community needs, and creating strong collaborations in the community. Both value personal, social, career and ethical growth of students. **The difference is that service learning integrates classroom teaching with hands-on service experiences that enhance and deepen student learning.**

Service Learning...

- ✓ Is a method whereby students or participants learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service that is conducted in and meets the needs of a community;
- ✓ Is coordinated with an elementary school, secondary school, institution of higher education, or community service program and with the community;
- ✓ Helps foster civic responsibility;
- ✓ Is integrated into and enhances the academic curriculum of the students or the educational components of the community service program in which the participants are enrolled;
- ✓ Provides structured time for the students and participants to reflect on the service experience.¹

Why Use Service Learning?

Students involved in service learning receive a variety of academic and social benefits. Students will. . .

- ✓ Understand the relevance of what is being taught in school and apply learning and skills to the outside world.
- ✓ Remember and use the content information and skills that they learned in class through service learning.
- ✓ Have an improved understanding of their role as citizens in a democratic society.
- ✓ Understand that every community has needs that are often unmet and learn how to identify those needs.
- ✓ Develop an ethic of providing service to others and to their community.
- ✓ Understand that working with other people as a team is often an effective way of addressing issues and solving community problems.
- ✓ Reflect on their service experiences and on the effect of those experiences on the lives of people they served or on their own lives.²

Examples of Service-Learning

Service learning is a teaching strategy that can work for all students, in all subject areas and at all grade levels. Here are some examples of service-learning projects:

¹ The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

² Report of the State Superintendent's Service Learning Task Force, California Department of Education, 1999.

In elementary school: 3rd grade students partner with a nearby senior care facility. Students study letter writing. At the facility, students take dictation of letters from seniors, return to their classroom, and prepare the letter to be sent with appropriate form, spelling, and grammar. The seniors sign the letters and the students mail them.

In middle school: 7th grade science students design, create and maintain a garden located in a deserted lot in the back of the school. The garden, consisting of native California plants and ecosystems, is used as a focal point for the study of geology, ecology, and agriculture.

In high school: Students in an American Democracy class volunteer at public or community based agencies, after brainstorming issues related to the theme of poverty. The teacher assigns readings related to the theme. Each student maintains a journal with entries relating their experiences to classroom learning.

Additional Resources

Online Resources

Volunteer Facts and Statistics

Servenet - www.servenet.org

Kids Care - www.kidscare.org

At The Table - www.atthetable.org

Youth Service America - www.ysa.org/nysd/statistics.html

Service Learning

National Service Learning Clearinghouse - www.servicelearning.org

SEANet - www.seanetonline.org

Service Learning In Deed - www.learningindeed.org

Prudential - www.prudential.com/community

National Youth Leadership Council - www.nylc.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Fairfax - www.volunteerfairfax.org

Volunteer Match - www.volunteermatch.org

Firstlink - www.firstlink.org

Youth Service Opportunities Project - www.ysop.org

Youth Activism/Resources

Youth In Action - www.youthlink.org

Do Something - www.dosomething.org

Youth as Resources - www.yar.org

Youth Venture - www.youthventure.org

The Corporation for National and Community Service - www.cns.gov

Grant Information

Win an Award!

Throughout Northern Virginia, hundreds of volunteers lend their time, talent, and resources with boundless generosity, spirit, and enthusiasm. Many companies give back to recognize and reward the vital work done by volunteers. Check out these grants sponsored by businesses and/or organizations:

1. Angels in Action™

Georgia-Pacific, maker of Angel Soft® bath tissue, is excited to sponsor the third annual *Angels in Action™* Awards Program. This program rewards children who perform exemplary acts of service to benefit a community, charity or cause.

Ten angels between the ages of 8 and 15 will be awarded \$5,000 each and a year's supply of Angel Soft bath tissue. For further information, please visit <http://www.angelssoft.com>.

2. Awards for Youth Leaders: YouthActionNet

YouthActionNet awards small grants to youth leaders and their projects that promote social change and connect youth with local communities. Youth can be involved in a wide range of activities, from recruiting peers as volunteers to promoting public health, but the overall goal of the project must be community improvement. Award recipients will receive \$500 and funds for a disposable camera to photo-document their project for an online photo gallery. For further information, please visit <http://www.youthactionnet.org/minigrants.php>.

3. Colgate Youth For America Award

If you are between the ages of 4 and 19 and are a member of one of the organizations listed below, your club can enter!

- Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.
- Boys and Girls Clubs of America
- Girls Incorporated
- Camp Fire, Inc.
- National 4H Council

Colgate will provide monetary grants to those groups whose projects are the most innovative and successful. You must submit a one-page summary of your project by March 2003. The top 318 local unit winners can win up to \$1000 in cash. A bonus prize of an additional \$1000 is awarded to the project voted "Best in the Nation." For further information please visit, http://www.colgate.com/cp/corp.class/colgate_cares/youthForAmer.jsp.

4. The Congressional Award

The Congressional Award is the U.S. Congress' award for young Americans. The program is open to all 4 to 23 year olds. Participants earn bronze, silver and gold Congressional Awards and bronze, silver and gold Congressional Award medals. Each level involves setting goals in four program areas; Volunteer Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness and Expedition/Exploration. For further information, please visit <http://www.congressionalaward.org>.

5. Daily Points of Light Award

The Daily Points of Light Awards are designed to honor those who have made a commitment to connect Americans through service to help meet critical needs in their communities. Any individual, organization, group, family, business or labor union actively engaged in voluntary service may apply. To find out more, contact the Points of Light Foundation, www.pointsoflight.org, or to receive a nomination form, please call (202) 729-8184 or email awards@pointsoflight.org.

6. President's Student Service Challenge Award

The President's Student Service Challenge was launched in December 1998 as a way to recognize and encourage young people who are making positive contributions to their communities. The Challenge consists of two parts: the President's Student Service Scholarship and the President's Student Service Award. The Awards are designed to recognize youth ages 5 to 25 who complete at least 100 hours of service to their community within a 12-month period. Students receive a gold pin, a certificate and a letter from the President. There is also a silver level award for youth ages 5 to 14 who complete 50 hours within a 12-month period. The Scholarships are available for one student from each high school in the country. For further information, please visit <http://www.student-service-awards.org>.

7. Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

The Prudential Spirit of Community awards recognize students in middle and high school who have demonstrated exemplary community service. The awards program is sponsored by Prudential in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Award winners are then selected at the local, state and national levels.

8. Start Something

Start Something is a program for youth ages 8 to 17 that helps them figure out what steps they should take to pursue their interests and reach their goals. Young people ages 11 to 14 can win up to \$100 to \$5,000 in scholarship money. For further information, please visit <http://startsomething.target.com/info/index.asp>.

Volunteerism after High School

Below are options for youth to research in an effort to continue volunteer service after high school.

AmeriCorps: www.americorps.gov

AmeriCorps is an opportunity to make a big difference in your life and in the lives of those around you. It's a chance to apply your skills and ideals toward helping others and meeting critical needs in the community. Each year, AmeriCorps offers 75,000 opportunities for adults of all ages and backgrounds to serve through a network of partnerships with local and national nonprofit groups. Whether your service makes a community safer, gives a child a second chance, or helps protect the environment, you'll be getting things done through AmeriCorps! You must be at least 17 years old, although some service opportunities require you to be at least 18. For one of our programs, the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), members must be between 18 and 24 years old, but for most there are no upper age limits.

City Year: www.cityyear.org

City Year unites young people of all backgrounds for a year of full-time service, giving them skills and opportunities to change the world. As tutors, mentors and role models, these diverse young leaders help children stay in school and on track, and transform schools and communities across the United States, as well as through international affiliates in Johannesburg, South Africa and London, England. Just as important, during their year of service corps members develop civic leadership skills they can use throughout a lifetime of community service. To participate, you must be between the ages of 17 and 24, be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident alien, and be a high school graduate or GED recipient or agree to work toward high school equivalency while serving at City Year. A full term of service with City Year is 10 months.

Amigos de las Americas: www.amigoslink.org

With AMIGOS, you will have the chance to live with one or two other Volunteers in a small community in Latin America. Our program is the perfect way to improve your Spanish fluency while gaining experiences that will set you apart from your peers and give you the skills necessary to accomplish your school and career goals. AMIGOS puts cultural sensitivity, youth action, and safety first when developing volunteer opportunities with our partner agencies. Our approach includes placing volunteers in communities in groups of 2-3, family home stays, an elaborate system for supervision and support, and a tried and true safety and security system. The minimum age for participation in an AMIGOS Latin American project is 16 years of age on or before the following September 1, provided that the individual has completed his or her sophomore year of high school.

20 Ways to Make a Difference in Your Community

Courtesy of Youth Service America

Young people are serving their communities at record numbers. Last year, 13 million teens gave 2.4 billion hours of service back to their communities. If you want to help your community, here are some ideas for how you can make a difference.

1. Help teach a younger child to read.
2. Help cook and/or serve a meal at a homeless shelter.
3. Gather clothing from your neighbors and donate it to a local shelter.
4. Make "I Care" kits with combs, toothbrushes, shampoo, etc. for the homeless.
5. Pack and hand out food at a local food bank.
6. Adopt a "grandfriend" and write them letters and visit them.
7. Visit senior citizens at a nursing home.
8. Rake leaves, shovel snow, clean gutters, or wash windows for a senior citizen.
9. Pick up groceries or medicine for an elderly person.
10. Go for a walk with a senior citizen in your community.
11. Deliver meals to homebound individuals.
12. Hold an afternoon dance for your local nursing home.
13. Teach a senior friend how to use a computer and the Internet.
14. Paint a mural over graffiti.
15. Invite local police officers to present a drug awareness or safety presentation.
16. Tutor a student that needs help learning English or some other subject.
17. Organize a canned goods drive.
18. Clean up a vacant lot or park.
19. Contact your local volunteer center for opportunities to serve.
20. Plant flowers in public areas that could use some color.