Directory of Youth Service Opportunities

2015-2016
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 2015. 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

Phone: 703-246-3460

Fax: 703-246-4662

Website:  [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org)
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- Pathway Homes, Inc.
- Shelter House, Inc. – Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter
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**Springfield**
KEEN Sports Program

**Vienna**
Alternative House  
American Cancer Society

**Washington, DC**
Capital Area Food Bank  
Food and Friends  
Newseum
2015-2016 Agencies
A Forever-Home Rescue Foundation (AFH)
P.O. Box 222801
Chantilly, VA 20163
703-961-8690
volunteer@aforeverhome.org

**Mission Statement:** Forever-Home Rescue Foundation strives to make quality dogs available for adoption and do our best to match prospective adopters with the right animal!

**Volunteer Opportunities:** AFH does not have a physical shelter as we keep all of our dogs in foster homes. We can use help at our adoption events to hold available dogs and do set up and clean up.

**Training:** Yes

**Minimum Age:** 15

**Minimum Age w/Adult:** 15

**Is this organization group friendly?** Yes

**Times Needed:** Sundays from 1-4 in Chantilly, VA.

**Public Transportation:** No

**Requirements for applying:** Contact agency

**Long Term Commitment:** Dependent on job
Alternative House
2100 Gallows Rd.
Vienna, VA 22027
703-506-9191
ChristineBartell@TheAlternativeHouse.org
http://www.thealternativehouse.org/index.htm

Mission Statement: The Alternative House transforms the lives of children and youth, helping them stay safe, make positive decisions, achieve educational success, and overcome personal crises. We offer children, youth and families hope for brighter futures by providing counseling, shelter and neighborhood-based support.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to assist in various programs such as Childcare (AYM), Outreach, Emergency Teen Shelter, Safe Youth Project (SYP), and the Youth Advisory Council. For short term volunteering, various programs include tutoring, special projects, yard and fall yard volunteering, and snack food collection.

Training: 1+ sessions

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult: 16

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, with specific opportunities

Times Needed: Weekdays after school, weekday evenings, and weekends.

Public Transportation: Yes, via the Dunn Loring Metro Station.

Requirements for applying: For long term commitments volunteers must complete an application, interview process, and TB test. For short-term commitment, these requirements are not necessary.

Long Term Commitment: 6-12 months
American Cancer Society  
124 Park Street, SE, Suite 100  
Vienna, Virginia  
703-938-5550  
Sebla Ronayne  
sebla.ronayne@cancer.org  
http://www.cancer.org

Mission Statement: The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed for various fundraisers throughout the DC Metro Area, including Northern Virginia.

Training: 90 minute session

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: 13

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekdays after school, and/or weekends.

Public Transportation: Vienna Metro station

Requirements for applying: None

Long Term Commitment: None
American Red Cross  
Greater Chesapeake and Potomac  
Blood Services Region  
4700 Mount Hope Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
1-800-272-0094 x1  

Carol Wendt  
Carol.wendt@redcross.org  
www.redcrossblood/gcp  

Mission Statement: The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.  

Volunteer Opportunities: Come and enjoy a social atmosphere where meeting friendly people in a positive environment combines with the mission of saving lives. As a Volunteer Donor Ambassador, the Reception Volunteer welcomes donors, and the Hospitality Volunteer serves beverages and light snacks to the donors. We are seeking volunteers who have excellent customer service skills.  

Training: Volunteer Donor Ambassador Training is given locally.  

Minimum Age: 15  

Minimum Age with Adult: 15  

Is this organization group friendly? No  

Times Needed: Weekdays and Saturdays during the day.  

Public Transportation: Must provide own transportation.  

Requirements for applying: Have excellent customer services skills. Volunteers must complete an application in Volunteer Connection and attend a Volunteer Donor Ambassador Training. All volunteers over the age of 18 must complete a background check.  

Long Term Commitment: We are seeking volunteers who have weekday/daytime availability (we do have limited Saturday hours available) and are available at least 2 times a month for a shift of 4-6 hours with a 1 year commitment. If you are volunteering to fulfill Community Service hours or Service Learning hours the minimum is to complete 40 hours of volunteering.
ACCA (Annandale Christian Community For Action)
7200 Columbia Pike
Annandale, VA  22003
703-256-0100
Barbara Boots
bootcampbj@verizon.net
703-256-9513
Mary Lee Di Spirito
(703) 256-9513
accacares@verizon.net
http://accacares.org

Mission Statement: ACCA is a church-related voluntary organization providing day care, food, rental assistance, furniture, and other services to low-income families in the Annandale/Bailey's Crossroads area, regardless of religion, race or ethnic background. What counts most in ACCA is serving those in need.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to assist the ACCA team with various programs such as the Child Development Center, Family Emergency Assistance, Furniture/ Housing Repair, Meals on Wheels, Scholarships, Shelter Assistance, and Transportation.

Training: Dependent on job

Minimum Age: 10 (prefer with adult)

Minimum Age w/Adult: 10

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekdays after school or evenings, weekend days or 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 apt. transportation programs require volunteers to provide their own (or parents') transportation.

Requirements for applying: Dependent on program

Long Term Commitment: None
Arlington Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources
2121 N. Culpeper
Arlington, VA 22201
703-228-4724
Hadyn Kihm
drpvolunteer@arlingtonva.us
http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/volunteer

Mission Statement: The Department of Parks and Recreation promotes wellness and vitality through dynamic programs and attractive public spaces.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers can assist in aiding in an adapted aquatics class, be a special events assistant, help to remove invasive plants from our parks, be an after school homework helper, lead senior adults on bus excursions, and many more opportunities.

Training: Dependent on job

Minimum Age: 13

Minimum Age w/Adult: 10

Is this organization group friendly? Yes (size dependent on job)

Times Needed: Dependent on program

Public Transportation: None

Requirements for applying: Be able to work well independently or with seniors and children

Long Term Commitment: Dependent on job
Arts Council of Fairfax County
2667 Prosperity Avenue, Suite A
Fairfax, VA 22031
703-642-0862 x2
Janay Turner
jturner@artsfairfax.org
http://artsfairfax.org

Mission Statement: The Arts Council of Fairfax County is the voice of the arts, dedicated to fostering dynamic and diverse local arts, ensuring that arts thrive by providing vision, leadership, capacity building services, advocacy, funding, education, and information.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer opportunities include helping to organize files in the office, or assisting with mailings and marketing efforts. Volunteers will assist Arts Council staff with functions integral to operations.

Training: Yes

Minimum Age: 17

Minimum Age w/Adult: N/A

Is this organization group friendly? No

Times Needed: Weekdays between 10 am- 5pm

Public Transportation: Located three blocks from the Dunn Loring-Merrifield metro stop

Requirements for applying: Send an e-mail to Janay Turner at jturner@artsfairfax.org expressing your interests in volunteering for the organization.

Long Term Commitment: Job dependent
Boat People SOS, Inc.
6066 Leesburg Pike,
Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-538-2190
Human Resources
hr@bpsos.org
www.bpsos.org

Mission Statement: The mission of Boat People SOS is to assist Vietnamese refugees and immigrants in their search for a life of liberty and dignity, by empowering, equipping and organizing Vietnamese American communities in their progress towards self-sufficiency.

Volunteer Opportunities: Boat People SOS, Inc. is looking for tutors to work one-on-one with struggling elementary and middle school students. Tutors will be paired with one or two students and meet at least twice a week for about 2 hours. Meeting times are flexible based on both the tutor's and student's availabilities. Tutoring will take place at the BPSOS office. Our youth are eager to learn and motivated to succeed with your help and dedication.

Training: 2 hour orientation

Minimum Age: 18

Minimum Age w/Adult: 14

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekdays between 4-7 pm and weekends between 10am-12pm

Public Transportation: Yes, the closest metro stop is East Falls Church, approximately 3 miles from the office. Buses may also be taken from the West Falls Church Metro.

Requirements for applying: All volunteers must contact HR for more information, work with children well, and have some proficiency in the various subject matters.

Long Term Commitment: Generally one year
Capital Area Food Bank
DC Location: 4900 Puerto Rico Ave NE
Washington, DC 20017
202-644-9800

VA Location: 6833 Hill Park Drive
Lorton, VA 22079
571-482-4770

Ellen Mackall
202-644-9835
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 metro area by acquiring food and distributing it through its network of partner agencies, while educating, empowering and enlightening the community about the issues of hunger and nutrition. CAFB is a member of Feeding America, a national network of 200 food banks.

Volunteer Opportunities: We offer one-time volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups of up to forty people at our DC Warehouse. These projects typically involve, but are not limited to: packing and sorting, stocking floor, loading docks, and administrative tasks.

Training: None

Minimum Age: 12

Minimum Age w/Adult: Any age between 12 and 17

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Dependent on location

Public Transportation: Dependent on location

Requirements for applying: Under the age of 18 must have a waiver form and an adult present.

Long Term Commitment: None
Capital Caring
2900 Telestar Court
Falls Church, VA 22042
703-538-2065
Chip Cagle
ccagle@capitalcaring.org
http://www.capitalcaring.org

Mission Statement: The mission of Capital Caring is to improve care for those facing life-limiting illness through direct support of patients and their families, public education and public advocacy.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer opportunities include administrative duties in the Falls Church office including data entry, filing, mailings, and other duties as assigned. Visit http://capitalcaring.org/join-us/volunteers/ to see a full list of opportunities and complete the volunteer application.

Training: Dependent on job

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult: 16

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm

Public Transportation: Yes, accessible by buses going up Route 50. Just walk across the street to the building.

Requirements for applying: All volunteers must complete an application.

Long Term Commitment: Dependent on job
Celebrate Fairfax
12000 Government Center Parkway
Suite 247
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
703-324-5457
Meagan Butkus
Meagan.Butkus@fairfaxcounty.gov
Ashley Morris (groups 5+)
Ashley.Morris@FairfaxCounty.Gov
http://www.celebratefairfax.com/Volunteers

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

Volunteer Opportunities: Join us twice a year – Fall for Fairfax Kidsfest 10/3-10/4, 2015 and Celebrate Fairfax 6/10-6/12, 2016. Volunteers serve in a variety of areas: costume characters, gate attendants, line monitors, assisting with arts and crafts activities, event preparations, etc.

Training: None

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekends

Public Transportation: Yes, accessible by buses going up Route 50. Just walk across the street to the building.

Requirements for applying: All volunteers must complete a volunteer waiver during online registration.

Long Term Commitment: None
Chestnut Grove Cemetery  
(Town of Herndon)  
831 Dranesville Road  
Herndon, VA 20170  
703-435-3480  
Mike Moore  
mike.moore@herndon.va.gov  
http://www.chestnutgrovecemetery.com/

Mission Statement: The mission of the Chestnut Grove Cemetery is to provide cemetery services for the citizens of Herndon and area residents by providing an aesthetically pleasing, well-maintained cemetery that offers contemporary options for internment services. Through the cemetery’s customer service, citizens of the community can expect to be served with respect and dignity.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers assist in special projects that will further enhance the overall appearance of the cemetery.

Training: None

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult: 13

Is this organization group friendly? 5-10 people

Times Needed: Weekdays after school

Public Transportation: Bus stop within a block

Requirements for applying: None

Long Term Commitment: None
**Children’s Science Center**

2214 Rock Hill Road  
Suite 380  
Herndon, VA 20170  
703-648-3130  

Michelle Bond  
volunteer@childsci.org  

**Mission Statement:** To instill a love of learning STEM in all children by providing unique opportunities to explore, create, and be inspired as we help grow our nation’s future generations of scientists and engineers! The Children’s Science Center is an interactive children’s museum being planned for Northern Virginia focused on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). We provide engaging, hands-on STEM-focused activities for children ages 2-12.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Volunteers are needed to assist with our "Museum Without Walls" (MWOW) program entitled "Mobile Labs Family Science Nights,” bringing many activities and exhibits to schools across the region. Volunteers interact directly with elementary students to teach basic scientific concepts and assist with hands-on activities. For more information: [http://childsci.org/volunteer-how-to/](http://childsci.org/volunteer-how-to/)

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Volunteers are needed to assist with our Family Science Nights and at the Lab at Fair Oaks Mall (11948 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax, VA 22033). Volunteers interact directly with elementary students to teach basic scientific concepts and assist with hands-on activities. Lab volunteers engage guests and provide support to education staff during daily operations at the Children’s Science Center Lab at Fair Oaks Mall. Visit our website for more information: [http://childsci.org/volunteer-how-to/](http://childsci.org/volunteer-how-to/)

**Training:** In-person training is available, but not necessary, on a quarterly basis. Training can be provided through a detailed packet (and videos) explaining requirements and logistics.

**Minimum Age:** 16  
**Minimum Age w/Adult:** 13-15

**Is this organization group friendly?** Yes

**Times Needed:** Weekdays during business hours, also after school and some evenings

**Public Transportation:** Some of our events within the community are accessible by public transit. Volunteers provide their own transportation.

**Requirements for applying:** Volunteers are required to complete an application.

**Long Term Commitment:** Participation in at least 2 events throughout the school year.
Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run
6310 Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA 22101
703-442-7557
J-D Engle
jengle@1771.org
http://1771.org/

Mission Statement: The mission of the 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 as well as individual volunteer opportunities for those needing community service hours or who just enjoy volunteering.

Training: Dependent on job

Minimum Age: 12

Minimum Age w/Adult: N/A

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekdays after school

Public Transportation: Closest metro is McLean and then it is a 5 mile walk. The closest MetroBus station is at Dolley Madison Blvd. and Georgetown Pike, on the 15K & 15L lines (which operate only during rush hour), and then it is a 1 mile walk.

Requirements for applying: Dependent on job; however, all volunteers must complete an informative reading and complete a registration form and consent form.

Long Term Commitment: Dependent on job
Coptic Orphans
P.O. Box 2881
Merrifield, VA 22116
703-641-8910
Banita Negi
bnegi@copticorphans.org
http://www.copticorphans.org

Mission Statement: The mission of Coptic Orphans is to improve the lives of orphans and other vulnerable children in Egypt by providing basic needs, education, and mentoring so that they may realize their potential to become productive members of society. Coptic Orphans also exists to raise awareness about poverty in Egypt and promote cultural understanding. Our vision is to see every vulnerable child of Egypt confidently face the future with a renewed sense of hope and a life enriched with education, health and equality.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to assist with both administrative and in-office opportunities, such as updating data on our server (which includes kids’ photos and information) and stuffing envelopes, stamping kids’ letters in order to send them to our donor in the USA.

Training: Dependent on job

Minimum Age: 12

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? We encourage our volunteers to do group work, but of course that depends on the nature of the task assigned.

Times Needed: Weekdays after school and/or weekday evenings

Public Transportation: We have a Shuttle Service to and from the Dun Loring Metro stop for the morning and evening commuters and the Mosaic District.

Requirements for applying: Prior application

Long Term Commitment: Dependent on job
Cornerstones
11150 Sunset Hills Road
Suite 210 Reston, VA 20190
571-323-9565
Alacia Earley
Alacia.earley@cornerstonesva.org
www.cornerstonesva.org

Mission Statement: We promote self-sufficiency through direct support and advocacy for our neighbors in need of food, immediate shelter, affordable housing, quality child care, and other human services.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers can assist in various ways -- such as front desk receptionist, childcare assistant, reading tutor, food donation sorting, high school tutors, and many more.

Training: Yes

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult: 10

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, project dependent

Times Needed: Weekdays after school, evening, and weekends

Public Transportation: Yes, the Administrative office is a stop on the Fairfax County bus line; however, you may have to walk 1/2 mile depending on what bus is taken. Also accessible from the Wiehle Silver Line Metro Stop.

Requirements for applying: One-time volunteers must complete a volunteer form. Ongoing volunteers must complete an online orientation.

Long Term Commitment: Most ongoing opportunities are year round, monthly, school year round, or during the summer.
Earth Sangha
Opportunities throughout Fairfax County
10123 Commonwealth Blvd.
Fairfax, VA 22032
703-764-4830
Lisa Bright
info@earthsangha.org
http://www.earthsangha.org

Mission Statement: Our mission is ecological restoration as a form of socially engaged Buddhism. Although we work in the spirit of Buddhist practice, our volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and our work is secular and science-based. In the DC area, we operate a volunteer-based program to propagate local native plants, restore native plant communities, and control invasive alien plants.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers can help at our Wild Plant Nursery with propagation activities (preparing pots, sowing seeds, transplanting, weeding, watering, etc.). Volunteers can also help remove invasive alien plants and with planting native grass, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees on local parkland.

Training: 10-20 minute session

Minimum Age: 8

Minimum Age w/Adult: Any age with adult

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekends and/or weekdays

Public Transportation: None

Requirements for applying: None

Long Term Commitment: None
FACETS
10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-865-4251
D’Ivonne Holman
dholman@facetscares.org
http://facetscares.org

Mission Statement: The mission of FACETS is to build strong families and safe communities by improving the quality of life for impoverished men, women, and children through the comprehensive programs addressing physical, spiritual, and emotional needs.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed for the following positions:
- Office Help (Data Entry, Front Desk, Pantry Organizer, Van Maintenance)
- Mentors/Tutors
- Community Program Assistants (Homework Help, Boys Group, Girls Group, ESL, Computer Lab, etc.)
- Youth Volunteer Night, Translators
- Special Events (Taste of Fall, Benefit Breakfast, Back to School Drive, etc.)

For more detailed job descriptions, please visit the website www.facetscares.org.

Training: Dependent on job

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult: 10 (Only applies to the Youth Volunteer Night)

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Dependent on job

Public Transportation: Yes, the main office is accessible by Metro and Cue buses, and two of the three community centers are also accessible by these bus lines.

Requirements for applying: All volunteers must complete a volunteer interest form on website.

Long Term Commitment: Dependent on job
Mission Statement: NCS engages, connects and collaborates with individuals, organizations, neighborhoods, and communities to strategically plan and provide responsive services, and build capacity to support community and neighborhood solutions.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer opportunities include a variety of services including athletic services, community centers, senior services, teen services, therapeutic recreation services, computer clubhouses, computer learning center partnerships, and various others. Visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/ and http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/volunteer.htm for a full list of opportunities.

Training: Mandatory volunteer orientation

Minimum Age: 12

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Dependent on Job

Public Transportation: Yes - Reston Teen Center, South County Government, and James Lee Community Center.

Requirements for applying: All volunteers must be Fairfax County residents, complete a background check, and fill out a volunteer application.

Long Term Commitment: Dependent on job
**Fairfax County Office of Elections**  
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323  
Fairfax, Virginia 22035  
703-222-0776  
Patricia Ferguson  
Patricia.ferguson@fairfaxcounty.gov  
703-324-4711  
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections

**Mission Statement:** The Office of Elections is committed to providing each citizen of Fairfax County with the opportunity to exercise his or her right to vote in an efficient and equitable manner in accordance with the Constitutions of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Code of Virginia.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Volunteers are needed for general office assistance at the Government Center as well as Satellite Voting Locations during the election season (Nov., Mar.). Assistance includes sorting election materials, general administration, phones and voter service.

**Training:** Depends on program

**Minimum Age:** 16

**Minimum Age w/Adult:** n/a

**Is this organization group friendly?** Under certain circumstances

**Times Needed:** Monday-Friday 3:30-7pm and Saturdays 9 am – 5pm (shifts available) during election season (November and March).

**Public Transportation:** Public bus stops at the Government Center and some Satellite locations - otherwise volunteers are required to provide their own transportation.

**Requirements for applying:** Dependent on program.

**Long Term Commitment:** None
**Fairfax County Park Authority - 2016 IMA Program**

12055 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, Virginia 22035  
703-324-8681  
(703) 324-8569  
Deborah Lodato  
Deborah.Lodato@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 wellbeing, and enhancement of their quality of life.

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

**Training:** On-site training

**Minimum Age:** 13

**Minimum Age w/Adult:** 5

**Is this organization group friendly?** Yes (min.5 max.20)

**Times Needed:** Weekdays after school and/or weekend days

**Public Transportation:** None

**Requirements for applying:** None

**Long Term Commitment:** None
Fairfax County Public Libraries
12055 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
703-324-8332
Erin Chernisky
Erin.chernisky@fairfaxcounty.gov
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/volunteer

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 the city of Fairfax.

Volunteer Opportunities: Teen volunteers work throughout the 23-branch library system helping with tasks such as straightening and organizing shelves, putting materials in alphabetical order, signing up participants for the Summer Reading Program, setting up and cleaning up after programs, and other general administrative duties. Exact duties will vary from branch to branch. Volunteer positions for youth are limited and fill up quickly, so contact the library branch where you wish to volunteer well in advance to see if there are any openings.

Click here for a list of current openings for youth volunteers. This includes all county agencies, not just the libraries. If you do not see the library branch you are looking for, you can contact the branch volunteer coordinator to find out when in the future they might have openings.

Training: Yes

Minimum Age: Must be 12 years old and in middle school.

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? No

Times Needed: Weekdays after school, evenings, or weekend days

Public Transportation: Please visit the library's website.

Requirements for applying: All volunteers must complete an application for their particular branch.

Long Term Commitment: Dependent on job
Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
4103 Chain Bridge Rd., Suite 200
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-273-3526
Mindy Stewart, ext. 22
mstewart@casafairfax.org
http://www.fairfaxcasa.org
http://www.fairfaxrunforthechildren.com

**Mission Statement:** Fairfax CASA’s *Run for the Children* has been touted a “must-do” event by runners, families, and the media. With the community’s participation, we have been able to bring increased awareness to the issue of child abuse and neglect as well as raise money for our important mission. The money raised through race registrations and sponsorships helps us to provide a dedicated individual – an advocate - to stand beside every child in need, giving them a voice in court and helping them to reach their potential.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Fairfax CASA utilizes youth volunteers, ages 13-18, for our annual *Run for the Children* 8K Race and 3K Run/Walk. Specific volunteer positions ideal for youth are the grounds set-up and clean-up committees (which allow youth volunteers to receive their school community service credit, if needed). Additionally, volunteers are needed to help out at the water stations, food tent, and much more! Youth volunteers may also pass out race info prior to the race. So, grab a group of your friends and come be a part of this exciting community event!

**Training:** None

**Minimum Age:** 13

**Minimum Age w/Adult:** 13

**Is this organization group friendly?** Yes

**Times Needed:** May 2, 2016, 5am-12pm (various time slots)

**Public Transportation:** None

**Requirements for applying:** Sign up here to volunteer:
http://www.fairfaxrunforthechildren.com/how-to-help/volunteer-on-race-day/

**Long Term Commitment:** Dependent on job.
Fairfax Partnership for Youth
12011 Government Center Pkwy
Suite 9403
Fairfax, VA 22035
703-324-7034
Info@fairfaxyouth.org
http://www.fairfaxyouth.org

Mission Statement: Lead the Fairfax-area community to embrace positive, sustainable solutions to youth challenges.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Young Adult Community Liaison (Ages 16-21): Provides ideas and feedback on our programs and needed community services, writes short opinion pieces and blog entries for our website and newsletter, and participates in our talk show. 2 hours per week.

Volunteer Coordinator (21 and over): Recruits volunteers and assists in routing them to appropriate volunteer activities. 2 hours per week.

Fundraising and Events Coordinator (21 and over): Works with staff and board to research grant opportunities, plan fundraising activities, promote sponsorship opportunities and attend networking events as a representative of FPY. 8-10 hours per week. This could lead to a paid part-time position.

Training: Dependent on job

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult: 16

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Dependent on program

Public Transportation: No

Requirements for applying: Dependent on program

Long Term Commitment: Most require at least 3 months; however, the long term requirement varies based on program.
Fairfax ReLeaf
Opportunities throughout Fairfax County
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 703
Fairfax, VA 22035
703-324-1409
Taylor Beach
trees@fairfaxReLeaf.org
http://www.fairfaxreleaf.org/FFR/Index.html

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

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to plant trees during events throughout planting season as well as initiate their own projects. Volunteers are also needed to maintain the sites throughout the year.

Training: None

Minimum Age: 12

Minimum Age w/Adult: N/A

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekdays after school or weekends

Public Transportation: None

Requirements for applying: None

Long Term Commitment: None except for administrative jobs
**Fairfax Station Railroad Museum**
11200 Fairfax Station Road
PO Box 7
Fairfax Station, VA 22039
703-425-9225
volunteers@fairfax-station.org
www.fairfax-station.org
http://www.fairfax-station.org/volunteers.html

**Mission Statement:** The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to interpreting and preserving Fairfax County’s railroad, Civil War and local history through its programs and activities.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Volunteers may help with special events on weekends, including large train shows, research projects, building and grounds projects, gift shop inventory, etc. Many but not all projects require being present at the Station during open hours.

**Training:** Minimum of 2-4 hours normally required, including orientation.

**Minimum Age:** 16

**Minimum Age w/Adult:** 12

**Is this organization group friendly?** Yes

**Times Needed:** Dependent on job

**Public Transportation:** None

**Requirements for applying:** None

**Long Term Commitment:** Strongly encouraged
Fairfax Symphony Orchestra
2667 Prosperity Ave
Fairfax, VA 22031
703-563-1990
Jonathan Kerr
jkerr@fairfaxisymphony.org
http://www.fairfaxisymphony.org

Mission Statement: The mission of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra is to explore and present the symphonic repertoire, both traditional and modern, for the diverse audiences of the Northern Virginia region while building the musicians and audiences of the future through education and outreach programs.

Volunteer Opportunities: The Fairfax Symphony offers volunteer opportunities at each of its concerts held at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall. These performances require 4.5-5 hours of time and involve tasks such as hosting subscriber cheese and wine receptions, administering our Student Passport Program, and assisting patrons with CD sales. Volunteer hours are also offered in the administrative offices in the field of arts management. These projects include historical archiving, concert production marketing, development of concerts, and educational programs.

Training: Dependent on job

Minimum Age: 16 (Except hosting cheese and wine receptions, must be 21)

Minimum Age w/Adult: 16

Is this organization group friendly? Generally no

Times Needed: Weekdays after school or weekends

Public Transportation: Yes, we are two blocks from Vienna Metro.

Requirements for applying: None

Long Term Commitment: Generally none
Food & Friends
219 Riggs Road, NE
Washington, DC 20011
202-269-6824
Colette Saucier
volunteer@foodandfriends.org
http://www.foodandfriends.org

Mission Statement: The mission of Food & Friends is to foster a community caring for men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS, cancer and other life-challenging illnesses by preparing and delivering specialized meals and groceries in conjunction with nutrition counseling.

Volunteer Opportunities: Most volunteers either assist in the kitchen, preparing and packaging meals, or on the road, delivering meals to the clients. Volunteers can help in other ways too, including lending a hand in the offices, staffing special events, or representing Food and Friends at public events.

Training: Yes

Minimum Age: 18 (14 for food preparation)

Minimum Age w/Adult: 14

Is this organization group friendly? Yes; however, groups must schedule with the agency in advance.

Times Needed: Monday-Friday 9-noon; Monday-Thursday 1-3pm or 6-8pm

Public Transportation: Yes, located near the Ft. Totten Metro and provide a shuttle service back and forth from the Metro. The number for the shuttle is 202-669-6437.

Requirements for applying: All individual volunteers must register for an orientation online then decide where they want to volunteer. Groups schedule in advance and get their orientation at the beginning of their shift.

Long Term Commitment: None for groups. Individuals are asked to commit to 6 months
Food for Others
2938 Prosperity Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

Nikki Clifford
volunteer@foodforothers.org
www.foodforothers.org

Mission Statement: Our Mission is to distribute free food to our neighbors in need, in partnership with our Northern Virginia community, and to provide opportunities for people to volunteer their resources.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteering at Food for Others (FFO) is a fun way to achieve family togetherness, complete community service hours and achieve self-satisfaction.

Help with a program without leaving your home or office: Power Pack Program (P³) allows FFO to provide a pack of food to elementary school-aged students so they have something to eat over the weekend. Officemates, friends, and family can help by donating prepared packs to FFO or serve a school directly. Emergency Referral program (ERP) provides families with a 3 to 5 day supply of food. You can run a food drive, donate prepared boxes for FFO to distribute to clients, or donate much needed clean cardboard boxes!

At our warehouse volunteer positions include: Preparing food to be distributed to clients, sorting donations, inspecting power packs before delivery, and general cleaning -- essentially, whatever help is needed on the day you come in.

Training: No training is needed. However, no open toed shoes are allowed in the warehouse. You should be dressed to get dirty. Use of electronics in the warehouse is strictly prohibited.

Minimum Age: 12

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12 to 16

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, group sizes must be between 5 and 20 participants.

Times Needed: Monday – Friday, with 3 shifts to choose from: Shift 1 is 10am to 1pm, Shift 2 is 1pm to 3pm, Shift 3 is 3pm to 5pm.

Public Transportation: 15 to 20 minute walk from bus stops on Arlington Blvd. or Lee Highway.

Requirements for applying: Must schedule in advance via online calendar: http://foodforothers.org/action/volunteer

Long Term Commitment: No, you can work in the warehouse for as little as 2 hours.
Friends of Accotink Creek
Accotink Creek Watershed
703-400-1492
Philip Latasa
contact@accotink.org
www.accotink.org

Mission Statement: We, the Friends of Accotink Creek, are committed to protecting, promoting and restoring the water quality, natural habitat, and ecological well-being of the Accotink Creek watershed.

Volunteer Opportunities: Various environmental restoration activities, often outdoors. See our calendar at www.accotink.org. Volunteers are also encouraged to propose their own projects suited for individual interests and skills.

Training: None required

Minimum Age: 12

Minimum Age w/Adult: None

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Various, See our calendar at www.accotink.org

Public Transportation: Varies with time & place

Requirements for applying: RSVP through our calendar at www.accotink.org

Long Term Commitment: Varies, generally 1 - 3 hours.
GIVE (Growth and Inspiration through Volunteering and Education)
Opportunities throughout Fairfax County
3133 Barkley Drive
Fairfax, VA 22031 (mailing address only)
703-587-7104

directors@giveyouth.org
www.giveyouth.org

Mission Statement: To provide youth, especially those of underprivileged backgrounds, with the opportunities to excel in both education and leadership.

Volunteer Opportunities: High school students can volunteer to become tutors and mentors for students at any of our eleven locations. Students can also organize drives for used/new standardized test (SAT, AP, IB, etc.) preparation books at different locations and then deliver books to GIVE’s mailing address (in person is probably best).

Training: No training is required, although there are trainings offered for tutors seeking to improve their skills. New tutors are required to attend the orientation session for their given center. We do ask that students coming to tutor have a solid academic background and prefer tutors with a 2.7 GPA or above.

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: N/A because GIVE is student led and run.

Is this organization group friendly? Yes! We encourage volunteers to bring friends to their centers. We often also accept services offered by other groups.

Times Needed: Every Saturday and Sunday at different times depending on the chosen center location. Each volunteer can attend one or more centers one or more times.

Public Transportation: There are many GIVE centers, several of which have nearby public transportation. We recommend you visit www.wmata.com to check Metro Bus schedules.

Requirements for applying: A passion for community service and the patience to tutor younger students!

Long Term Commitment: Ideally tutors/mentors are expected to commit to aiding the same student for the whole year, but we also accept seasonal/occasional tutors. If this is your situation it is important to contact the GIVE center managers so that they have an understanding and expectation of your attendance.
Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads
3440 South Jefferson St.
Falls Church, VA 22041
703-578-7671
Amy Delery
adelery@goodwinhouse.org
http://www.goodwinhouse.org

Mission Statement: The mission of Goodwin House Incorporated 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 at least 16 years of age are needed in the areas of administrative work (filing, organizing, etc.), musical performers (intermediate level and above) and computer helpers. Computer volunteers are needed to assist residents with using iPads, iPods, tablets, and smart phones.

Training: 2 hour orientation

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult: Not available

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekdays after school, evenings, or weekends.

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

Requirements for applying: Volunteer application, background check, and volunteer orientation

Long Term Commitment: Job dependent
Greenbrier Learning Center
5401 7th Road South
Arlington, VA 22204
703-379-6488
ext.104ftt

Natalie Patrick
volunteer@greenbrierlearning.org
http://www.greenbrierlearning.org

Mission Statement: Greenbrier Learning Center’s mission is to promote education, youth leadership and strong families through structured enrichment programs beyond the school day. Utilizing a community-driven approach, we (1) foster academic achievement and personal growth among our afterschool students; (2) act as a resource for youth and adults; and (3) increase collaboration among service providers in Northern Virginia.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed for Learning ROCKS! (Afterschool program) and Buddy Nights (Evening Childcare)

Training: Mandatory orientation

Minimum Age: 15

Minimum Age w/Adult: 15

Is this organization group friendly? Yes with advance notice

Times Needed: Weekday afternoons from 3-6 pm for Learning ROCKS! (after-school program); Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings throughout the month for Buddy Nights (evening childcare).

Public Transportation: Yes. Greenbrier Learning Center (GLC) may be reached from the ART bus lines of 41, 45, or 75, which run to and from the Ballston Metro station. GLC is also accessible by the various Metro bus lines of 16 A, B, D, E, L, F, J, P, which run to and from the Pentagon and/or Pentagon City Metro stations.

Requirements for applying: All volunteers must complete a volunteer registration form and successfully pass a background check.

Long Term Commitment: Dependent on job
Habitat for Humanity Prince William County
9300 West Courthouse Road
Suite 105
Manassas VA 20110
703-369-6708
Traci DeGroat
volunteer@habitatpwc.org
www.habitatpwc.org

Mission Statement: Seeking to put God’s love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed at the ReStore and at construction sites to donate lunches to the volunteers and to distribute door hangers. Please see Habitat for Humanity’s website, http://habitatpwc.org/volunteer for a full list and calendar of all opportunities.

Training: On-site training

Minimum Age: 16 (construction and ReStore)

Minimum Age w/Adult: None for door hanging and providing lunches

Is this organization group friendly? Yes (contact in advance)

Times Needed: Generally weekends

Public Transportation: Depends on site

Requirements for applying: Dependent on job

Long Term Commitment: Dependent on site and job
Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area
10560 Main Street, Suite 309
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-352-7641
Karen Krzmarzick
director@HACAcare.org
http://www.hacacares.org/

Mission Statement: HACA’s mission is to support advocacy, education, and awareness efforts that build and sustain community among all people impacted by bleeding disorders.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers can assist with the preparation of bulk mailings, staff water stops, setting up and breakdown for our annual national walk.

Training: None

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: 14

Is this organization group friendly? Yes (maximum 5)

Times Needed: Weekdays after school or weekends

Public Transportation: Yes, via Cue bus

Requirements for applying: None

Long Term Commitment: None
Herndon Parks and Recreation Department
814 Ferndale Avenue
Herndon, Virginia 20171
703-435-6800 x2134
Ann Marie Heiser
annmarie.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 tasks and festivals.

**Training:** Dependent on job

**Minimum Age:** 13

**Minimum Age w/Adult:** 10

**Is this organization group friendly?** Yes (minimum 3 maximum 25)

**Times Needed:** Weekdays after school, weekday evenings, and/or weekends

**Public Transportation:** None

**Requirements for applying:** None

**Long Term Commitment:** None
Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc.
336 Victory Drive
Herndon, VA 20170
703-391-0105

Evea Newsom
esnewsom1@comcast.net
http://www.herndonrestonfish.org

Mission Statement: The mission of Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc., is to help the poor or otherwise distressed persons who need to request such help and specifically for those who cannot access help through government or social welfare agencies.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers assist with the Bargain Loft in Herndon and assist with lifting, carrying, and arranging donated items in the shop. Youth are also needed to help at the FISH booths during the Herndon and Reston Festivals.

Training: Dependent on job

Minimum Age: 12

Minimum Age w/Adult: 9

Is this organization group friendly? Maximum of 10 may help during the holiday basket program, or festivals. Must call ahead for more details.

Times Needed: Volunteers can donate one hour or more a month or even work seasonally during the winter holidays or summer holidays.

Public Transportation: None

Requirements for applying: None

Long Term Commitment: Optional
Hopkins House  
5904 Richmond Highway  
Suite 525  
Alexandria, VA 22303  
571-480-4094  
Kyle Otter  
info@hopkinshouse.org  
hopkinshouse.org

Mission Statement: The mission of Hopkins House is to provide high-impact educational programs and opportunities to children, youth, and their families particularly “at-risk and low-income, working families” to help them achieve, in measurably effective ways, their full intellectual, economic, and social potential.

Volunteer Opportunities: Reading with preschool children, tutoring teens and adults, organizing and chaperoning on local trips, cleaning toys, painting walls, planting flowers, or serving on committees. Hopkins House has three preschool academies:

Helen Day  
1224 Princess Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

McNeil Preschool  
8543 Forest Place  
Alexandria, VA 22309

Innovative Preschool Academy  
200 Fairbrook Drive  
Herndon, VA 20170

Training: None

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: 14

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Flexible

Public Transportation: Yes

Requirements for applying: Volunteer application at www.hopkinshouse.org. Also, all volunteers working with children must submit to a criminal background check and a central registry release of information, and undergo a tuberculosis test.

Long Term Commitment: None
Inova Fairfax Hospital
3300 Gallows Road
Falls Church, VA 22042-3300
703-776-3104
Susan Heisey
susan.heisey@inova.org
http://www.inova.org

Mission Statement: The mission of the Inova Fairfax hospital is to assist hospitalized patients by engaging them cognitively and physically to maintain their level of independence during their hospital stay.

Volunteer Opportunities: The role of the volunteer is to offer extra support for patients and families through various tasks as well as assist the hospital staff. Jobs may include the front desk, gift shop, or various wards throughout the hospital.

Training: 2- hour orientation

Minimum Age: 15

Minimum Age w/Adult: 13

Is this organization group friendly? No

Times Needed: Weekdays after school/evenings, weekends.

Public Transportation: Yes, bus drop off

Requirements for applying: All volunteers must complete an application, interview, and training.

Long Term Commitment: Adult volunteers must complete 4 hours weekly and 100 hours annually. Youth volunteers must complete 3-4 hours weekly and at least 50 hours annually.
Inova Loudoun Hospital
44045 Riverside Parkway
Leesburg, VA 20176
703-858-8094
http://www.inova.org

Mission Statement: The mission of the Inova Loudoun hospital is to assist hospitalized patients by engaging them cognitively and physically to maintain their level of independence during their hospital stay.

Volunteer Opportunities: The role of the volunteer is to offer extra support for patients and families through various tasks as well as assist the hospital staff. Jobs may include the front desk, gift shop, or various wards throughout the hospital.

Training: 2- hour orientation

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult 16

Is this organization group friendly? No (opportunities for groups to donate items)

Times Needed: Weekdays after school/evenings, weekends.

Public Transportation: Yes, bus drop off

Requirements for applying: All volunteers must complete an application, interview, background check and training.

Long Term Commitment: Adult volunteers must complete 4 hours weekly and 100 hours annually. Youth volunteers must complete 3-4 hours weekly and at least 50 hours annually.
Insight Memory Care Center
2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 210
Fairfax, VA 22031
703-204-4664

Maria Hoffman
maria.hoffman@insightmcc.org
www.insightmcc.org

Mission Statement: Insight Memory Care Center is a non-profit organization providing a wide range of services to people with Alzheimer's disease and their families. Serving the local community since 1984, AFDC offers a safe, uplifting, and engaging environment for people with dementia and is a practical resource for caregivers.

Volunteer Opportunities: Insight Memory Care Center enjoys the involvement of many volunteers who share their talents in a variety of ways, including playing the piano, assisting people with eating, helping serve and distribute lunch, bringing in pets for pet therapy sessions, and serving food at celebrations.

Training: 3 hour orientation session

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult: 15

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekdays anytime between 9:30 and 5:30

Public Transportation: Yes, there is a bus stop approximately .5 miles from our center on the corner of Lee Highway and Prosperity Ave. This connects to both the Dunn Loring Metro and the East Falls Church Metro.

Requirements for applying: Volunteers must complete and submit necessary forms including Volunteer Application, Photo Permission form, Parental Permission form (under 18), TB screening form (those working directly with participants), and a Pet Therapy Health Requirements form(those working in pet therapy). Letters of reference also required.

Long Term Commitment: 3 months minimum.
KEEN Sports Program
Key Center School
6404 Franconia Road
Springfield, VA 22150

Sophia Venero
(301) 461-3086
Keengrdc.sophia@gmail.com

Mission Statement: To provide recreational activities and exercise for children with disabilities.

Volunteer Opportunities: During the Sports Program, athletes and volunteers come together for one-to-one activities. There is a group warm-up and then individual activities that are tailored solely to the need of the athlete, which may include throwing a basketball, kicking a soccer ball, walking around the indoor track, or playing games such as Duck, Duck, Goose. The session ends with most participants coming together in a circle and sharing with the group what they did that day that “made them very proud.” They literally go out dancing to the Hokey Pokey for younger kids and the Macarena for teens and young adults. Athletes burn energy, meet and interact with new volunteers, see old friends, and then rejoin their parents who have had some precious respite time.

Training: New volunteers arrive at 10:00 for orientation and training. Veteran volunteers arrive around 10:15.

Minimum age: 15

Minimum age with Parent: 14

Is organization group friendly? Contact KEEN

Times needed: First and third Sunday of each month from Sept – June. 10:00 am – 1:15 pm or 12:45 – 2:45 pm

Public Transportation: Yes, Metro and bus.

Requirements for applying: register online or contact Sophia Venero at keengrdc.sophia@gmail.com

Long Term Commitment: No
Lorton Community Action Center
LCAC
P.O. Box 154
Lorton Virginia 22199-0154

Client Service Location
9518 Richmond Highway
703-339-5161 ext. 170
Kathleen Noone
Kathy@lortonaction.org
http://www.lortonaction.org/
Youth Page: http://ow.ly/QMIKw

Mission Statement: LCAC’s mission is to enhance the quality of life by providing food, basic needs, and self-sufficiency programs through the generous support of our community.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers may assist in an on-going process or a onetime event. The jobs range from an office assistant to pantry sorting, thrift shop assistant, etc.

Training: No

Minimum Age: 15

Minimum Age w/Adult: 13

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: After school and weekends

Public Transportation: No

Requirements for applying: All volunteers must complete necessary forms; however, contact specific projects for more information.

Long Term Commitment: On-going volunteers require a long term commitment; however, no other volunteers require a long term commitment.
Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation
P.O. Box 50037
Arlington, VA 22205
703-295-DOGS
Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@lostdogrescue.org
http://lostdogrescue.org

Mission Statement: The Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation (LDCRF) rescues abandoned or displaced dogs and cats from the threat of euthanasia in over-crowded shelters or other at-risk situations and places them for adoption into loving homes. All animals in the care of LDCRF are spayed or neutered and fully vaccinated prior to adoption and any special medical needs are addressed.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed as dog and cat handlers at adoption events, drivers of the pet taxi, to host/assist in fundraisers, or assist in grant writing.

Training: Dependent on job

Minimum Age: 17 to volunteer alone

Minimum Age w/Adult: 14

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekends

Public Transportation: Dependent on location

Requirements for applying: Please email to sign up

Long Term Commitment: Optional for some jobs
**Music for Life**
11 locations across the region
703-644-1311
Skip Chaples
Skip.chaples@gngnca.org
http://www.musicforlife.org

**Mission Statement:** The mission of Music for Life is to provide positive opportunities for youth challenged by adverse circumstances - poverty, dysfunctional families or communities – so they may succeed and become productive, caring and responsible members of society.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Volunteers assist with our guitar classes. Those who play guitar can help with instruction; those who do not can help with the administration of the class.

**Training:** Yes

**Minimum Age:** 16

**Minimum Age w/Adult:** 14

**Is this organization group friendly?** Yes, we can accommodate 2-3 assistants per class.

**Times Needed:** Weekdays after school between 4:30 & 6:30 pm

**Public Transportation:** Yes, most of our teaching locations are near a bus or metro stop.

**Requirements for applying:** All volunteers must complete an application form and have a background check performed.

**Long Term Commitment:** Weekly throughout school year.
Newseum
555 Pennsylvania Ave.
N.W. Washington, DC 20001
202-296-6368

Anna Frueh
volunteers@newseum.org
http://www.newseum.org/about/volunteer/

**Mission Statement:** The Newseum’s mission is to champion the five freedoms of the First Amendment.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** We are currently recruiting for volunteer guides to conduct tours for our visitors. These tours are structured, not scripted, allowing considerable flexibility to design informative tours of particular interest to you that can be modified to meet the needs/interests of your audiences. Volunteers are required to complete training sessions.

**Training:** Ongoing

**Minimum Age:** 16

**Minimum Age w/Adult:** 16

**Is this organization group friendly?** Yes

**Times Needed:** Varies

**Public Transportation:** Yes, one block from the Archives/Navy Memorial Stop, this is accessible by both bus and metro.

**Requirements for applying:** All volunteers must complete an online application.

**Long Term Commitment:** Minimum of one year.
Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS)

Locations throughout Northern Virginia
SERVE Campus:
10056 Dean Drive
Manassas, VA 20110
571-748-2500 - Main Office

Volunteer Coordinators
Navara Cannon-Placement of Volunteers outside of PWC:
ncannon@nvfs.org
571-748-2536

Jan Hawkins- Placement of Volunteers in PWC:
jhawkins@nvfs.org
571-748-2621
http://www.nvfs.org/

Mission Statement: The mission of Northern Virginia Family Service is to empower individuals and families to improve their quality of life, and to promote community cooperation and support in responding to family needs.

Volunteer Opportunities: Thrift Shops located in Centreville and Falls Church, Back to School Drives, Toy Drives, Special Events, card making, open to suggestions. All volunteer opportunities are posted online at http://www.nvfs.org

Training: 1-2 hours but can depend on volunteer position

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, for certain locations and with advance notice

Times Needed: Weekdays after school and weekends.

Public Transportation: Yes, some locations are metro accessible.

Requirements for applying: All volunteers must be complete an application, other requirements will vary depending on position

Long Term Commitment: Depends on student and volunteer job.
Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District  
12055 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 905  
Fairfax, VA 22035  
703-324-1460, TTY 711

Dan Schwartz  
Dan.Schwartz@Fairfaxcounty.gov  
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd

Mission Statement: The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District works to promote clean streams and protect natural resources in Fairfax County through environmental leadership, technical assistance, education, outreach, research and collaboration with the public, the government and industry.

Volunteer Opportunities: Stream Health Monitoring: Volunteers monitor the health of streams by sampling and identifying the invertebrates that live in the stream bottom.  
Storm Drain Marking: Volunteer storm drain markers educate local neighborhoods about the connection between storm drains and water pollution by placing labels with a “No Dumping” message on each storm drain in a community and also hanging informational flyers on doorknobs or writing an article for the community’s newsletter.  
Training: Stream monitoring: All necessary training is provided by attending the Conservation District’s volunteer monitoring workshops.  
Storm Drain Marking: A brief orientation session is needed before beginning any project.

Minimum Age: 14 for stream monitoring  
Minimum Age w/Adult: 10

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Varies. Most stream monitoring is done on the weekends and takes anywhere from 1-3 hours. Storm drain marking orientation sessions take place during normal work hours. Project size can be tailored to the volunteer’s needs. With a large group of volunteers participating, a large project can be completed in 3-4 hours in a single day.

Public Transportation: Stream monitoring is not accessible by public transportation. Storm drain marking projects often are, depending on the location of the project site.

Requirements for applying: An interest in the environment and a desire to serve your community.

Long Term Commitment: Desirable for stream monitoring, but not required. Not required for storm drain marking.
Optimist Club of Herndon
PO Box 1771
Herndon, VA 20172
703-437-0938
Phil Goetkin
www.herndonoptimist.org

Mission Statement: Since 1961, the Optimist Club of Herndon, VA has been dedicated to providing a helping hand to the youth in our greater-Herndon community. Our youth sports programs offer over two thousand children each year the opportunity to learn sports-related skills and that responsibility, teamwork, sportsmanship, and integrity are just as important as winning. Our education-partnership programs, law enforcement-partnership programs, and environmental stewardship programs engage the children in our community in positive ways with our school personnel, law enforcement officers, and the natural environment.

Volunteer Opportunities:
Youth sports programs (baseball, basketball, cheerleading, tackle football, flag football, rugby, field hockey, lacrosse):
- Head Coach - must be at least 18 years old
- Assistant Coach - must be at least 16 years old
- Baseball and/or Basketball Buddy - must be at least 16 years old (partner with disabled kids to help them play baseball/basketball)

Environmental programs: Age 5 and up:
- Park and stream cleanup

See website for full list of opportunities

Training: None

Minimum Age: Depends on opportunity – as low as 13.

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult, as low as 5.

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Saturday morning; two events in early to mid-March - see our website for event details.

Public Transportation: None

Requirements for applying: None

Long Term Commitment: No - you can attend one or both events.
Our Daily Bread
4080 Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-273-8829
Jennifer Rose
develop@ODBFairfax.org
www.ODBFairfax.org

Mission Statement: Our Daily Bread identifies and addresses the unmet fundamental needs of Fairfax area residents and empowers the community to help our neighbors maintain self-sufficiency. We aim to prevent homelessness. We serve as a bridge from need to empowerment.

Volunteer Opportunities: Complete the Circle FoodRaiser, Nov. 8, 2015, Fairfax City. Did you know that nearly 73,000 people in the Fairfax County area do not know if they will eat today? About 34,000 of them are children. Participating in Complete the Circle is a fun and meaningful way to help get the word out about the problem of hunger and need in our community while also helping feed the hungry who live very near us. You can receive 2 community service hours for attending Complete the Circle, and we will award more service hours to those who serve as a Team Captain and bring a group to the event and/or run a food or grocery gift card drive to benefit our families. Visit www.CompletetheCircleFX.org for registration and details.

Training: None

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/ Adult: 5

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: November 8, 1-2:30 p.m.

Public Transportation: None

Requirements for applying: Register at http://www.CompletetheCircleFX.org

Long Term Commitment: None
Pathway Homes, Inc.
10201 Fairfax Boulevard
Suite 200
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-876-0390 x 539
Abigail Denecke
adenecke@pathwayhomes.org
http://www.pathwayhomes.org

Mission Statement: Pathway Homes fulfills our mission by making available to individuals with mental illness and co-occurring disabilities a variety of non-time-limited housing and services to enable them to realize their individual potential. Pathway Homes embodies the spirit of recovery: embracing an attitude of hope, self-determination and partnering with each individual on their personal journey toward achieving self-fulfillment and realizing their dreams.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers engage in a variety of opportunities including arts and crafts helper, beauty aid, bridge teacher, computer assistance, cooking lessons, game nights, gardening, knitting, music playing, painting, pet therapy, piano assistant, or even just talking to the residents.

Training: Varies

Minimum Age: 10

Minimum Age w/Adult: 10

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekdays after school, weekday evenings, and weekends.

Public Transportation: No

Requirements for applying: All volunteers must complete a volunteer application, submit documentation of a TB test, and interview with the Volunteer Coordinator.

Long Term Commitment: Dependent on job
PRS CrisisLink
Arlington, VA 22204
Laura Mayer
Lmayer@prsinc.org

Mission Statement: CrisisLink brings immediate help, hope, and healing to empower individuals facing serious life challenges, suicidal thoughts, emotional or situational problems.

Volunteer Opportunities: Life stressors are very difficult to cope with, even as adults with practice! CrisisLink offers a 90-minute Girls Empowerment workshop designed for adolescent girls ages 11-17. During this presentation, participants learn about physical, emotional and behavioral signs of stress plus opportunities for coping and empowerment during difficult times. Our workshop offers hands-on learning activities in which our participants not only identify their own coping needs, but practice and share other helpful coping strategies with their peers. Each participant walks away with her own custom coping kit including access and understanding of the resources in their community.

Training: One 90 minute session

Minimum Age: 11, up to 16 years of age

Minimum Age w/Adult: 11

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, groups up to 15

Times Offered: Year-round, by scheduled session

Public Transportation: CrisisLink admin offices are metro friendly, this program can be run at any location.

Requirements for applying: Please contact Laura Mayer for more information
Reston Association
12001 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20191
703-435-7986
Ha Brock
habrock@reston.org
http://www.reston.org

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

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed for various on-going projects such as stream monitoring, as well as special events including clean-ups, movie nights, and festivals.

Training: On-site training

Minimum Age: 13

Minimum Age w/Adult: 10

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekends

Public Transportation: No

Requirements for applying: All volunteers must complete an application or contact the volunteer coordinator for special events.

Long Term Commitment: Yes, for on-going opportunities
Shelter House, Inc.-Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter
12970 Katherine Hanley Court
Fairfax, VA 22030
571-522-6815

Nurjan Ahmedova
nurjan.ahmedova@shelterhouse.org

Mission Statement: Shelter House's mission is to provide crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer opportunities include tutoring, kids’ nights, maintenance volunteers, movers, special events, donation collection, as well as hosting fundraisers.

Training: 30 minute session

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekdays, Evenings, Weekends

Public Transportation: No

Requirements for applying: Dependent on job

Long Term Commitment: Dependent on job
Shelter House, Inc.-Patrick Henry Shelter
3080 Patrick Henry Drive
Falls Church, VA 2044
703.538.7105

Victor Dooley
victor.dooley@shelterhouse.org
http://www.shelterhouse.org

Mission Statement: Shelter House's mission is to provide crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer opportunities include tutoring, kids’ nights, maintenance volunteers, movers, special events, donation collection, as well as hosting fundraisers.

Training: 30 minute session

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Weekdays, Evenings, Weekends

Public Transportation: Yes, metro bus stop located directly in front of the building

Requirements for applying: Dependent on job

Long Term Commitment: Dependent on job
Sprout Therapeutic Riding & Education Center
40685 John Mosby Highway
Aldie, VA 20105
571-367-4555
Nancy Davidson
volunteer@sproutcenter.org
www.sproutcenter.org

Mission Statement: Sprout Therapeutic Riding & Education Center provides equine assisted activities and therapies to individuals seeking growth opportunities.

Volunteer Opportunities: Lesson Volunteers: Volunteers are used in lessons to provide support to our participants as they grow as riders. Side-walkers work with the students, while horse leaders help to guide and direct our equines. Barn Volunteers: Help to maintain an orderly facility by cleaning stalls, buckets, tack and supplies, as well as feeding and grooming our horses. Special Project Volunteers: We have many one-time activities such as fundraisers, community events, or even facility maintenance and barn cleaning days.

Training: All new volunteers must attend our initial Volunteer Orientation. We also offer additional training for volunteers wishing to be horse leaders.

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: 14

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Monday through Saturday throughout the day depending upon position.

Public Transportation: No

Requirements for applying: A positive attitude and the ability to change and be flexible. Ability to walk for an hour at a time (indoors and outdoors) on uneven surfaces. Adequate vision to ensure safety of the horse and participants. Comfortable interacting with and supporting individuals with disabilities. All participants must also submit a volunteer application and liability release form.

Long Term Commitment: A long term, regular commitment is preferred, but not required for lesson volunteers. Lesson sessions run 5-8 weeks in length.
Treasure Shop
6246 Old Dominion Drive
McLean, VA 22101
703-538-2970
Sara Simms
saras@vinsonhall.org
http://www.nmcrf.org/treasure-shop/

Mission Statement: The mission of Vinson Hall Corporation and Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation is to ensure our residents are offered the finest quality of care and service, as well as to provide a comfortable environment fostering dignity, friendship and security.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to assist with all areas of Treasure Shop including cash register, sorting, and filing. (Partner with Vinson Hall Retirement Community Center).

Training: No

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult: 16

Is this organization group friendly? Contact agency

Times Needed: Mondays - Saturdays from 10am-5pm (shifts).

Public Transportation: No

Requirements for applying: None

Long Term Commitment: Contact agency for more information.
Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County
2970-B Chain Bridge Road
Oakton, VA 22124
703-938-8723
Diane Eckert
deckertupc@gmail.com
www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org

Mission Statement: UPC’s mission is to prevent violence, alcohol, and other drug use by youth and young adults in Virginia’s most populous county. Our hallmark is a commitment to community collaboration—more than 50 community organizations partner with us as health advocates in a shared vision of making our community a better place.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to assist with large mailings; distribute materials to local pharmacies, teen and community centers, and other community agencies; help with fundraising events; join the Youth Council for community service hours and help with making public service announcements, write a blog, work on newsletters or the Youth Council Facebook page, plan some fun, alcohol and drug-free events, and represent youth before elected officials and at UPC membership meetings.

Training: Dependent on program

Minimum age: 13

Is this organization group friendly: Dependent on program

Times needed: Weekdays after school, weekday evenings, and weekends.

Public Transportation: None

Requirements for applying: Contact agency for more information about applying.

Long Term Commitment: None
United Community Ministries (UCM)
7511 Fordson Road
Alexandria, VA 22306
571-255-8979
Marcos Castillo
Marcos.Castillo@ucmagency.org
http://www.ucmagency.org

Mission Statement: United Community Ministries (UCM) is a community based social service agency whose mission is to assist families and individuals to improve the quality of their lives in a manner that builds their self-reliance and fosters their ability to function at the greatest level of their economic and social capacities.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to help with the management and distribution of donations at UCM’s Cynthia Hull Food Pantry, UCM's Back Porch Thrift Store, and at UCM’s main location for on-going administrative support, special projects and other events. After school volunteers are also needed for tutoring of elementary & middle school students at UCM’s Creekside Community Center and UCM’s Sacramento Neighborhood Center.

Training: Attendance of a one hour volunteer orientation, and other if needed by a specific program.

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, 10 or less.

Times Needed: Weekdays, after school and weekends. Seasonal opportunities and special projects are routinely available.

Public Transportation: Yes, the Huntington Metro and taxi or bus is accessible with a 5 minute walk to location.

Requirements for applying: Application package, Volunteer Orientation, background check for those working with children or young people, and other as needed by specific programs.

Long Term Commitment: Available based on the desire of the volunteer.
Mission Statement: Volunteer Fairfax matches the skills and interests of volunteers and donors to the needs of local nonprofit organizations to build a better community through service.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer Fairfax hosts two events that are geared towards engaging youth in our community: VolunteerFest and Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day.

October 24, 2015: VolunteerFest is a region-wide day of community service held annually to mobilize volunteers to help nonprofits accomplish tasks that they would not have the time or resources to do on their own. Individuals and groups are welcome!

January 18, 2016: Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day gathers together families with elementary school children to work on service projects that support charitable efforts on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. In addition, Give Together gives parents the opportunity to teach the values of volunteering and giving back to the community.

Training: Dependent on opportunity

Minimum Age: Dependent on opportunity

Minimum Age w/Adult: Dependent on opportunity

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

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

Public Transportation: Dependent on opportunity

Requirements for applying: Register through our website at www.volunteerfairfax.org

Long Term Commitment: None
Wright to Read
414 North Washington St.
Suite 101
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-299-9854
Luisa Reyes
lreyes@wrighttoread.org
http://www.wrighttoread.org

Mission Statement: Wright to Read provides volunteer-based one-on-one sustained literacy tutoring & mentoring relationships to City of Alexandria elementary school children in need, and collaborates with families, schools and community partners to create a comprehensive support network that guides each child to success.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed for tutoring and mentoring elementary school students.

Training: 1 hour

Minimum Age: 18

Minimum Age w/Adult: 14

Is this organization group friendly? No

Times Needed: Weekday evenings or weekends

Public Transportation: Yes, tutoring takes place at the public libraries.

Requirements for applying: Application, orientation and training

Long Term Commitment: At least one year.
Youth Service Opportunity Project
1317 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.347.2525
Danielle Stonehirsch
dstonehirsch@ysop.org
http://www.ysop.org

Mission Statement: YSOP is committed to helping young people become part of the solution to societal problems by showing them how even their smallest actions can make a difference in the lives of others. While YSOP was created for young people, we welcome people of all ages to YSOP.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers prepare and serve meals in various soup kitchens, distribute food and supplies to food pantries, work with other youth, as well as perform in various special projects. *There is a small fee for program to cover cost*.

Training: Training for day of service

Minimum Age: 12

Minimum Age w/Adult 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Monday-Saturday

Public Transportation: The metro is close to the main building.

Requirements for applying: All volunteers must complete an application and orientation.

Long Term Commitment: Dependent on job
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 the agencies and locate the group friendly opportunities. 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.

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.

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1 The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.
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:

**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.

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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.y sop.org

Youth Activism/Resources
Do Something - www.dosomething.org
The Corporation for National and Community Service - www.cns.gov
Youth In Action - www.youthlink.org
Youth as Resources - www.yar.org
Youth Venture - www.youthventure.org
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. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards
   The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards were established in 1993 and serve as a community-wide celebration of volunteerism. Nominations open in January for the event that occurs in April. Competitive categories include Family, Youth Individual and Youth Group and a non-competitive benchmark award is available who have served 100 hours and more. More information can be found at www.volunteerfairfax.org.
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](http://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](http://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](http://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. This 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.
Special Thank You!

Volunteer Fairfax would like to extend a special “Thank You” to our volunteers who have made this Directory possible:

Ann Brown and Sue Dietrich

We appreciate all the time and effort that you have contributed to Volunteer Fairfax. Without your dedication this project would not have been possible.