

Directory of Youth Service Opportunities 2018-2019

Welcome!

This book is designed for people like you who want to make a difference. Opportunities listed in the directory were submitted by organizations to Volunteer Fairfax as of September 2018. 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.

To view this guide online, please visit
<http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/just-for-youth.php>.

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

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Agencies by Minimum Age

***Minimum Age *is without an adult.*

Variable

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12 Years Old

[Annandale Christian Community for Action \(ACCA\)](#)
[Aspire Afterschool Learning](#) (6th grade)
[Fairfax County Public Libraries](#) (middle school)
[Food for Others](#)
[Friends of Accotink Creek](#)
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13 Years Old

[Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services](#)
[Herndon Dept of Parks and Recreation](#)
[Reston Association](#)

14 Years Old

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[Fairfax County Park Authority—IMA Program](#)
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[Shelter House – Patrick Henry](#)
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[Sprout Therapeutic Riding & Education Center](#)
[Vinson Hall](#)

15 Years Old

[KEEN Sports Program](#)
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16 Years Old

[A Forever Home Rescue Foundation](#)
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[Fairfax Station Railroad Museum](#)
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[United Community Ministries \(UCM\)](#)

17 Years Old

[ArtsFairfax](#)
[Lost Dog and Cat Rescue](#)

18 Years Old

[American Red Cross](#)
[Boat People SOS](#)
[Second Story](#)

Agencies by Minimum Age

***Minimum Age on this page *is with an adult*.

Variable/Activity Dependent

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[Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run](#)
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[Habitat for Humanity – Prince William County](#)
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10 Years Old

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[Cornerstones](#)
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[Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District](#)
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11 Years Old

[Fairfax County Park Authority—IMA Program](#)

12 Years Old

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[Aspire Afterschool Learning](#) (6th grade)
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13 Years Old

[Celebrate Fairfax](#)
[Chestnut Grove Cemetery](#)
[Children’s Science Center](#)
[Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services](#)
[Lorton Community Action Center](#)
[United Community Ministries \(UCM\)](#)

14 Years Old

[Boat People SOS](#)
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15 Years Old

[Insight Memory Center](#)

16 Years Old

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17 Years Old

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18 Years Old

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Fine & Performing Arts

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Health Services

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Homelessness/Hunger

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Immigration

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Programs that help those with disabilities

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Other

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Agencies by Location

Across DC Metro Region

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[American Red Cross](#)

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Across Fairfax County

[ArtsFairfax](#)

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Fairfax

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FACETS

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Oakton

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Springfield

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Vienna

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Washington, DC
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2018-2019 Agencies

A Forever-Home Rescue Foundation (AFH)



P.O. Box 222801
Chantilly, VA 20163
703-961-8690

volunteer@aforeverhome.org
www.aforeverhome.org

Mission Statement: Finding Forever Homes for dogs and pups in need.

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: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult: 16

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Sundays from 12:30-4 in Chantilly, VA.

Public Transportation: No

Requirements for applying: Contact agency

Long Term Commitment: No

American Cancer Society

Volunteer Care Team
1-800-227-2345 (Option #4)
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 activities throughout the DC Metro Area, including Northern Virginia.

Training: Yes

Minimum Age: Depends on the volunteer role

Minimum Age w/Adult: Under 14 requires parental consent and sometimes presence at the volunteering event

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Various

Public Transportation: Depends

Requirements for applying: None

Long Term Commitment: None



American Red Cross

National Capital Region
8550 Arlington Boulevard
Fairfax, Virginia 22031

Teri McCormick Hinton

Teri.mccormick@redcross.org

<http://www.redcross.org/local/washington-dc>

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: 18

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 volunteer work.

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
www.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: 12 Dependent on program; 14 years for the furniture program, contact for more information

Minimum Age w/Adult: Dependent on program; contact for more information

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 appt. transportation programs require volunteers to provide their own (or parents') transportation.

Requirements for applying: Dependent on program

Long Term Commitment: None

ARTSFAIRFAX

2667 Prosperity Avenue, Suite A
Fairfax, VA 22031
703-642-0862 x2

Brenda MacRoberts
bmacroberts@artsfairfax.org
www.artsfairfax.org



Mission Statement: ARTSFAIRFAX 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 ARTSFAIRFAX 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 Brenda MacRoberts at bmacroberts@artsfairfax.org expressing your interests in volunteering for the organization.

Long Term Commitment: Job dependent

Aspire Afterschool Learning

5401 7th Road
South Arlington, VA 22204
703-379-6488 ext.107



Claire Traveline
volunteer@aspireafterschool.org
www.aspireafterschool.org

Mission Statement: Aspire! Afterschool expands learning opportunities that help young people fulfil their potential through afterschool and summer learning programs that support and connect families, schools, and communities.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed for after school Homework Buddies and Reading Buddies.

Locations:

Arlington Mill Community Center: 909 S Dinwiddie St. Arlington VA 22204
Buchanan Gardens: 926 S Buchanan St. Arlington VA 22204
Virginia Gardens: 1710 S Taylor St. Arlington VA 22204

Training: Mandatory orientation

Minimum Age: 6th grade

Minimum Age w/Adult: 6th grade

Is this organization group friendly? Yes with advance notice

Times Needed: Monday-Friday 3-6/6:30

Public Transportation: Dependent upon location.

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

Long Term Commitment: We ask that our afterschool volunteers commit to at least four months with us.

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

Britepaths
4080 Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-273-8829
Joanne Walton
jwalton@britepaths.org
www.britepaths.org



Mission Statement: Britepaths 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:

1. **ON-GOING: Run a Food/Donation Drive:** Britepaths has an overwhelming need for supporters in our community to raise food and funds to help us assist families in our Food Bridge temporary food assistance program. You can make a big difference by running a food and grocery store gift card donation drive in your neighborhood, school, or at a local grocery store. Great group activity! Details at: <https://britepaths.org/RunAFoodDrive>
2. **ON-GOING: Donate Food & Assemble Weekend Food Packs for Children:** Britepaths' Food4Thought Program partners with numerous FCPS schools to help them send weekend food packs home with students in need at their schools. We have an ongoing need for community members to assemble weekend food packs and deliver them to our partner schools. This activity involves supplying the food yourself, but you may run a donation drive to collect the food. Great group activity. Details at: <https://britepaths.org/f4t-volunteer-project> .
3. **Run a Backpack Donation Drive:** Every July, Britepaths collects backpacks to distribute to schools to give to their students in need. We rely on community members and organizations to do Backpack collections in order for us to meet the goal of 700 backpacks. Great group activity. Details at: <https://britepaths.org/our-programs/back-school>.
4. **Fall Festival Information Tables:** Britepaths will have information tables on weekends at a variety of locations in the Fairfax County area in September and October. The volunteers who take shifts running these tables provide vital assistance to our families by helping us get out the word to community members about how they can donate or volunteer. Volunteering involves handing out information about our programs and fall events and helping kids with a fun and simple craft. Youth under 16 need to volunteer with a parent or person 18+.
5. **Sponsor a Family for the Holidays:** Each fall, Britepaths' Holiday Program seeks community members to provide Thanksgiving meals and Holiday meals and gifts for children in December. Starting in late September 2018, our Holiday Program page will include registration information and details about how community members can help. This is a great group activity, and you can receive additional service hours for coordinating a group to assist a family. Details will be at: <https://britepaths.org/our-programs/holiday-program>

Training: None

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/ Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Varies

Public Transportation: None

Requirements for applying: Details on volunteering with us are at: <https://britepaths.org/get-involved/volunteer>

Long Term Commitment: None



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

Sarah Gochenaour
202-644-9804
volunteer@capitalareafoodbank.org
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
703-712-4870

Ilene Danforth
idanforth@capitalcaring.org
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

www.celebratefairfax.com/Volunteers



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

Volunteer Opportunities:

Fall For Fairfax: September 29th- September 30th, 2018.

Celebrate Fairfax! Festival: June 7th-June 9th, 2019

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

Training: None

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: 13 for Celebrate Fairfax!; 10 for Fall for Fairfax

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

Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run

6310 Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA 22101
703-442-7557
Clara Everhart
ceverhart@1771.org
www.1771.org



CLAUDE MOORE
• COLONIAL FARM •

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:

Junior Interpreters: (training needed, ages 10-17 only) Learn the art of historical interpretation by being paired with a professional 18th century interpreter and working with them throughout their day on the Claude Moore Colonial Farm. For more information, email Melissa at mjohnson@1771.org.

Garden/Grounds: (no training needed, minimum age of 12 unless accompanied by an adult) Group or solo volunteer friendly; work in our modern or 18th c garden or clean up fallen branches and rocks as needed. Available Tuesday-Sunday.

Retail: (training needed, minimum age 16) After receiving your first training shift, you can be scheduled to work the counter, stock the shop, or create craft packages for sale. 3+ hour shifts available Wednesday-Sunday.

Library/Archives: (training needed, minimum age 12) Group or solo volunteer friendly; after receiving an introduction to the library/archives and our system, sort photos according to subject matter, shelve books, or enter book data into our online system. 2+ hour shifts available Wednesday-Friday.

The Bookstore: (no training needed, minimum age of 12 unless accompanied by an adult) Group or solo volunteer friendly; dust and vacuum the bookstore, shelve books, and other tasks as needed. Available Wednesday-Saturday.

Public Transportation: McLean Metro stop is 5 miles away from the Farm. 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: Email ceverhart@1771.org with a brief statement of interest and available dates and times.

Chestnut Grove Cemetery

(Town of Herndon)
831 Dranesville Road
Herndon, VA 20170
703-435-3480

David Roscoe

david.roscoe@herndon-va.gov
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

11948 Fair Oaks Mall

Fairfax, VA 22033

703-648-3130

Traci McGillicuddy

volunteer@childsci.org

www.childsci.org



Mission Statement: To instill a love of learning STEM in all children by providing unique opportunities to explore, create, and be inspired! The Children's Science Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to filling the gap in Northern Virginia with a permanent, world-class interactive exploration center that incorporates traditional museum exhibits with cutting edge discovery experiences. We provide engaging, hands-on STEM-focused activities for children ages 2-12.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to assist with Community Programs events like Family Science Night (FSN) that occur throughout the region at local schools and other weekend community events. Community Programs volunteers interact directly with elementary students, teach basic scientific concepts, and facilitate hands-on activities. Visit our website for more information: <https://childsci.org/get-involved/volunteer/youth/>

Volunteers are needed to assist at the Children's Science Center Lab at Fair Oaks Mall (11948 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax, VA 22033). 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: <https://childsci.org/get-involved/volunteer/youth/>

Training: Training for Community Programs can be provided through a detailed packet (& videos) explaining requirements and logistics. In-person training is mandatory for volunteering at the Lab.

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult: 13-15; each member of the volunteer pair is expected to work together the entire shift

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 online application which can be found at <https://childsci.org/get-involved/volunteer/youth/>.

Long Term Commitment: Participation in at least 2 events throughout the school year.



Cornerstones

11150 Sunset Hills Road
Suite 210
Reston, VA 20190
571 323-9555

Susan Alger

susan.alger@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 in local parks and at Wild Plant Nursery in Franconia Park

703-764-4830

Matt Bright

info@earthsangha.org

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: 14

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
703-272-2710



Frank Garvey – 703-272-3710

www.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 four community centers are also accessible by these bus lines.

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

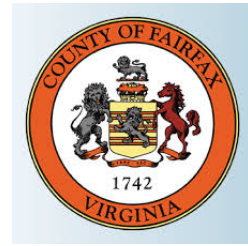
Long Term Commitment: Dependent on job

Fairfax County – Office of Elections

Opportunities throughout Fairfax County
703-324-4735

Electionofficers@fairfaxcounty.gov

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/high-school-student-program>



Mission Statement: Students shall be selected for the election-day page program by the electoral board or the general registrar in cooperation with high school authorities. The program shall be designed to stimulate the pages' interest in elections and registering to vote, provide assistance to the officers of election, and ensure the safe entry and exit of elderly and disabled voters from the polling place

Volunteer Opportunities: Serve an 8-hour shift in a Fairfax County or a Fairfax City polling place under the direct supervision of the Chief Election Officer.

Training: You are required to take a 2-hour Election Page training class. The training will cover election procedures, voting machines and a short program on how to assist persons with disabilities. You will receive your Election Day assignment after training is completed.

Minimum Age: 16 (or in high school government class)

Minimum Age w/Adult: N/A

Is this organization group friendly? No.

Times Needed: Election Day 2018

Public Transportation: No, must provide own transportation.

Requirements for applying: The Office of Elections encourages you to become an election page for the upcoming November election if you are either:

- 1) Enrolled in a high school government class **or**
- 2) At least sixteen (16) years of age, and fluent in English (mandatory) and also fluent in one of the following languages, Spanish, Vietnamese, **or** Korean

ALL STUDENTS MUST USE THE **ON-LINE APPLICATION FORM**. The application form is updated every year and available at the end of August. If you are under the age of 18, you must have the approval of your parent/guardian in order to participate. **The application, with all required signatures, should be returned to your teacher/advisor no later than the deadline listed in the online application form.**

Long Term Commitment: No

Fairfax County - Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)

Opportunities throughout Fairfax County
703-324-5504

Vicki Greene

Vicki.Greene@fairfaxcounty.gov

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/volunteer>



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, technology centers, and various others. Visit the website, <https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov>, and click "Search Opportunities," then in "Quick Search" field, type "NCS" for a full list of opportunities.

Training: Mandatory volunteer orientation

Minimum Age: 13

Minimum Age w/Adult: 13

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Dependent on Job

Public Transportation: Yes, most locations.

Requirements for applying: Volunteers are required to complete a background check, and to apply for an NCS volunteer opportunity online at <https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov>, search for "NCS."

Long Term Commitment: Dependent on job

Fairfax County Park Authority - IMA Program

12055 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Erin Stocksclaeder, 703-324-8681
Lindsay Edwards, 703-324-2598

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/IMA



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

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

Training: On-site training

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: 11

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

<https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/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 Station Railroad Museum

11200 Fairfax Station Road
PO Box 7
Fairfax Station, VA 22039
703-425-9225



www.fairfax-station.org

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: 14

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Usually Sundays from 12:30 to 4:30 but dates and times vary depending on specific tasks. A minimum of 4 hours per month is requested.

Public Transportation: None

Requirements for applying: Potential volunteers will be sent a questionnaire for completion once they notify the museum of their interest.

Long Term Commitment: Strongly encouraged



Food & Friends

219 Riggs Road, NE
Washington, DC 20011
202-269-6824

Andrece Bassett
volunteer@foodandfriends.org
www.foodandfriends.org

Mission Statement: To improve the lives and health of people with HIV/AIDS, cancer and other serious illnesses that limit their ability to provide nourishment for themselves.

Volunteer Opportunities: Most youth volunteers assist in the kitchen, preparing and packaging meals, on the road, delivering meals to the clients, or through our Service Learning Internship for HS students lending a hand in the offices.

Training: Yes

Minimum Age: 14 for Internship program; 16 for food prep and packaging without an adult; 18 for delivery

Minimum Age w/Adult: 14 in the kitchen, and no lower age limit for passengers on delivery

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, we have group opportunities daily for small and large organizations

Times Needed: Monday-Friday 9-noon; Monday-Thursday 1-3pm or 6-8pm; Saturdays 8-10am and 10am-12pm for food prep and packaging, and Saturdays 9am-12pm for delivery groups

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 volunteers must schedule to volunteer ahead of time. 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. For Individuals it varies by activity.



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](http://www.foodforothers.org) (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 2 shifts to choose from: Shift 1 is 10am to 1pm, Shift 2 is 3pm to 5pm.

Public Transportation: 15 to 20 minute walk from bus stops on Arlington Blvd. or Lee Highway and 1 mile from Dunn Loring Metro Station.

Requirements for applying: Must schedule in advance via online calendar:

<https://www.foodforothers.org/volunteer-individuals/>

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 eighteen locations. Students can also organize drives for used/new standardized test (SAT, AP, IB, etc.) preparation books and school supplies at different locations and then deliver them 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 highly encouraged 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

Greta Christ
gchrist@goodwinhouse.org
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, TB test, and volunteer orientation

Long Term Commitment: Job dependent

Habitat for Humanity Prince William County

10159 Hastings Dr.
Manassas, VA 20108
703-369-6708



Aron Perkins
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

Herndon Department of Parks and Recreation

814 Ferndale Avenue Herndon, Virginia 20170
703-435-6800 x2111



Cynthia Hoftiezer

cynthia.hoftiezer@herndon-va.gov

www.herndon-va.gov

Mission Statement: The Herndon Parks and Recreation Department provides an exceptional level of service by offering enriching recreation programs, parks and facilities that provide opportunities for all town residents to benefit.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers assist with programs, events, administrative tasks, festivals and park clean-ups. Many one-time volunteer opportunities for community events, especially in the fall and spring. A quarterly list of volunteer activities is on our website: www.herndon-va.gov/recreation.

Training: Dependent on job

Minimum Age: 13 (depends on activity)

Minimum Age w/Adult: 10 (depends on activity)

Is this organization group friendly? Yes (minimum 3 maximum 35) (varies by task)

Times Needed: Mainly weekends, occ. weekdays after school or evenings.

Public Transportation: Fairfax Connector Rt. 937 Coppermine-Elden St.

Requirements for applying: None

Long Term Commitment: None

Hopkins House

5904 Richmond Highway
Suite 525
Alexandria, VA 22303
571-480-4094



Anthony Ovalles
info@hopkinshouse.org
www.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 in written English, organizing and chaperoning on local trips, cleaning toys, painting walls, planting flowers, or serving on committees. Hopkins House has three preschool academies and a college program:

Early Childhood Learning Institute

5904 Richmond Hwy – Ste. 525
Alexandria, VA 22303

Helen Day Preschool Academy

1224 Princess Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

James L. & Juliette McNeil Preschool Academy

8543 Forest Place
Alexandria, VA 22309

Innovative Preschool Academy

200 Fairbrook Drive – Ste. 103
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.

Long Term Commitment: None

Insight Memory Care Center

3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-204-4664



Katelyn Sloan
volunteer@insightmcc.org
www.insightmcc.org

Mission Statement: Insight Memory Care Center is a nonprofit adult day health and resource center providing specialized care, support, and education for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other memory impairments, their families, caregivers, and the community.

Volunteer Opportunities: Insight Memory Care Center enjoys the involvement of many volunteers who share their talents in a variety of ways. Volunteer opportunities include assisting with activities, assisting with mealtimes, conversing with bilingual participants, or helping with mailings. Additionally, individuals and groups can lead programs for our participants, such as sharing a talent, hobby or hosting a party!

Training: 1 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: The **2B Metrobus** stops at the intersection of Waples Mill Road and 50; just over a quarter mile walk to the office. This route also stops at the Vienna and Dunn Loring stations on the metro Orange line.

The **1C Metrobus** stops at the intersection of Jermantown Road and 50; just under a half mile walk to the office. This route also stops at the Dunn Loring station on the metro Orange line.

The **Cue Bus Gold** routes stop at the intersection of Jermantown Road and 50; just under a half a mile walk to the office. This route also stops at the Vienna station on the metro Orange line.

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
www.keengreaterdc.org

KEEN Sports at Key Center and Kilmer Center School

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 to the need of the athlete, which may include throwing a basketball, kicking a ball, walking around the indoor track, or playing games such as Duck, Duck, Goose. The session ends with most participants coming together 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, and see old friends.

Training:

1. Irving Middle School ([8100 Old Keene Mill Rd. Springfield VA 22152](#))

Time: 10:00-1:15 pm

2. Kilmer Center School ([8102 Wolftrap Rd, Vienna, VA](#))

Time: 2:45-4:30pm

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.

Public Transportation: Yes, Metro and bus.

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

Long-Term Commitment: No

KEEN Sports Program-Bowling

Key Center School
6404 Franconia Road
Springfield, VA 22150



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

KEEN Bowling

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

Volunteer Opportunities: This new program provides opportunity for teens and young adults to bowl for an hour.

Bowl America in Falls Church, VA (140 South Maple Drive, Falls Church, VA)

Minimum age: 15

Minimum age with Parent: 14

Is organization group friendly? Contact KEEN

Times needed: First and third Saturday of each month from Sept – June.

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

Christen Scott
703-339-5161 ext. 170
Christen@LortonAction.org
www.lortonaction.org

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
www.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@musicforlife.org

www.musicforlife.org

Mission Statement: The mission of Music for Life is to use the power of music education to support at-risk youth and help them overcome their barriers to becoming self-sufficient adults. Youth cannot succeed if they are denied opportunities because of the circumstances into which they are born.

Volunteer Opportunities: (1) Guitar instructors (16 or older) for our classes in the community; (2) adult instructors (21 or older) for any band or orchestra instrument, stipends negotiable; and (3) luthiers (21 or older) for our STEM Guitar classes.

Training: Yes

Minimum Age: 16 for guitar instructors; 21 for others.

Minimum Age w/Adult: 16 for guitar instructors; 21 all others.

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, small groups for guitar instructors and luthiers.

Times Needed: Guitar and Band & Orchestra classes conducted weekdays after school between 3:00 & 6:30 pm; STEM Guitar classes vary.

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
202-292-6368



volunteers@newseum.org
www.newseum.org/about/volunteer/

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

Volunteer Opportunities: Our volunteers are enthusiastic life-learners who work with our staff to promote, explain and defend the First Amendment and free expression. They assist us in this effort by conducting tours, volunteering on the floor with Visitor Services and through administrative work behind the scenes. Volunteers must complete a training program to prepare them for their role at the Newseum. For current openings, please visit the website above.

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 and a training program to prepare for their volunteer role at the Newseum.

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



Navara Cannon
Community & Volunteer Engagement Specialist – Prince
William County, ncannon@nvfs.org, 571-748-2536

Julie Martinez
Community & Volunteer Engagement Specialist – NVFS
Family Shelters, jrmartinez@nvfs.org, 571-748-2674

Annie Arroyo
Community & Volunteer Engagement Specialist – Fairfax,
Arlington, Alexandria & Loudoun, aarroyo@nvfs.org,
571-748-2621

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

Ashley Palmer
Ashley.Palmer@fairfaxcounty.gov
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation>



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

www.herndonoptimist.org



Mission Statement: Since 1961, the [Optimist Club of Herndon](http://www.herndonoptimist.org), 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.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Youth sports programs (baseball, basketball, cheerleading, tackle football, flag football, field hockey, lacrosse):

- Head Coach - must be at least 18 years old
- Assistant Coach - must be at least 14 years old
- Baseball and/or Basketball Buddy - must be at least 14 years old (partner with disabled kids to help them play baseball/basketball)
- Game Official – must be at least 14 years old

See website for full list of opportunities

Training: Training is provided for coaches, game officials, and buddies

Minimum Age: Depends on opportunity – see above.

Minimum Age w/Adult: Depends on opportunity – see above.

Is this organization group friendly? Yes – teams of coaches are welcome

Times Needed: Depending on the sports league, team practices are usually 1-3 weeknights for 1-2 hours each, and games are usually Saturdays or Sundays. Visit our sports league websites for more information about each sport.

Public Transportation: None

Requirements for applying: If 18 years or older, must pass a background check.

Long Term Commitment: No – sports leagues have spring, summer, fall, and winter seasons to choose from.

Phoenix Bikes

Arlington Mill Community Center
909 S. Dinwiddie St.
Arlington, VA 22204
703-575-7762
<http://www.phoenixbikes.org>



Leah Fantle, Education
Program Manager
Leah@phoenixbikes.org

Mission Statement: Phoenix Bikes educates youth, promotes bicycling, and builds community.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Youth Give-a-Bike & Earn-a-Bike bicycle repair education programs (learn bicycle maintenance skills while repairing a bicycle for a neighbor in need and have the opportunity to earn one for yourself, or donate a second bike)

Training: Yes, there are required orientations for new participants.

Minimum Age: 12 (rising 6th grade)
Maximum Age: 17 (high school senior)
Minimum Age w/Adult: 12

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

Times Needed: Year-round, Tuesday - Thursday, 12-6pm; Friday 12-7pm; Saturday 10am-4pm

Public Transportation: ART or Metrobus to Columbia Pike

Requirements for applying: Complete youth registration form & permission slip/youth conduct agreement form available at: phoenixbikes.org/youth-programs/earn-a-bike/

Long Term Commitment: approximately 25 hours

PRS



10455 White Granite Drive
Suite 400
Oakton, VA 22124
Phone: 703-536-9000
Lauren Padgett
lpadgett@prsinc.org

<https://prsincvolunteers.applicantpro.com/pages/volunteers/>

Mission Statement: PRS exists so that individuals living with mental illness, substance use disorders, mild intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, and anyone who faces life crises can achieve safety, personal wellness, recovery and community integration.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Create Personal Care Kits for PRS Clients: Including (new) items such as: full sized or travel sized hygiene products including deodorant for men and women, lotion, shampoo/conditioner, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, body spray, etc.
- Collect art supplies for PRS Recovery Academy Day Programs: Including items such as water-based paints, brushes, markers, colored paper, yarn, magazines, etc.
- Organize a Cleaning Supplies Drive to donate to PRS Clients: Collect (new) items such as Clorox wipes (bleach free), floor cleaner, toilet cleaner, bathroom cleaner, carpet cleaner, dusting, paper towels, etc.
- Create a “Home” basket for clients in PRS community housing programs: Including: cleaning supplies, paper products such as paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, or kitchen supplies such as cookware, cooking utensils, oven mitts, etc. (new only).
- Create holiday cards (winter holidays, New Years, Valentine’s Day) for PRS clients.
- Donate Snacks & Words of Encouragement: Donate nonperishable snacks to the volunteers working the 24/7/365 CrisisLink Hotline and Textline and create encouraging notes/cards that can provide inspiration and positive reinforcement to volunteers while on their shifts.
- Collect Snacks for the Recovery Academy Snack Bar: Donate healthy, nonperishable snacks and beverages to the PRS Recovery Academy snack bar! Clients purchase snack bar items at

low-cost, and the funds raised directly support the Recovery Academy. Clients choose how they want to spend their snack bar funds such as field trips, holiday parties, pizza parties, new games and books for the program and more. Preferred snacks include: nuts and trail mix (individually packaged), pop corner chips, kind bars or other healthy granola bar, skinny pop, baked chips, cans or bottles of bubbly or flavored water, and vitamin drinks.

- Join our suicide prevention campaign, #CallTextLive, held annually in September:
www.prsinc.org/calltextlive.
- Share our PRS CrisisLink hotline and textline phone number and business cards with your school, teachers, guidance counselors, friends, family members, youth groups, etc.

Requirements for applying: Please contact Lauren Padgett for more information.

Reston Association

12001 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20191
703-435-7986

Ha Brock
habrock@reston.org
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

Second Story

2100 Gallows Rd.
Vienna, VA 22182
703-506-9191
Christine Bartell

cbartell@second-story.org
www.second-story.org



Mission Statement: Second Story (formerly 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 child development in our Second Story for Young Mothers, Our Second Story in the Community (our community based programs) Second Story for Teens in Crisis (our emergency teen shelter and 24/7 hotline), Safe Youth Project (SYP), and the Youth Advisory Council. For short term volunteering, various programs include special projects, yard and fall yard volunteering, and snack food collection. Community service hours and court appointed hours can be filled through certain opportunities.

Training: 1+ sessions

Minimum Age: 18

Minimum Age w/Adult: 18

Is this organization group friendly? Yes, with specific opportunities

Times Needed: Weekdays after school, weekday evenings, and certain 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

Shelter House, Inc.-Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter

12970 Katherine Hanley Court
Fairfax, VA 22030
(O): 703-988-0256

Nurjan Ahmedova, Community Coordinator
Nurjan.ahmedova@shelterhouse.org
www.shelterhouse.org
(D): 571-522-6815



Mission Statement: Shelter House's mission is to prevent and end homelessness and domestic violence by engaging the community, building effective relationships and providing crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services.

Vision: Shelter House envisions a community free of homelessness and domestic violence.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer opportunities include administrative duties, donation collections, dining services, donation room attendant, front desk receptionist, fundraising, kids' night, movers, special events/projects, and tutoring.

Training: 30 minute session

Minimum Age: 14

Minimum Age w/Adult: any

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 22044

(O): 703-536-2155

Krysta.Aguilar@shelterhouse.org

www.shelterhouse.org

(D): 703-536-2155



Mission: Shelter House's mission is to prevent and end homelessness and domestic violence by engaging the community, building effective relationships and providing crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services.

Vision: Shelter House envisions a community free of homelessness and domestic violence.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer opportunities include administrative duties, donation collections, donation room attendant, front desk receptionist, fundraising, kids' night facilitator, movers, special events/projects, and tutoring.

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



Brooke Waldron volunteer@sproutcenter.org www.sproutcenter.org

Mission Statement: Sprout Therapeutic Riding & Education Center changes lives through partnerships with horses.

Volunteer Opportunities: Lesson/Barn Volunteers: Volunteers are used in lessons to provide support to our participants as they grow as riders, 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. Occasional Sundays for special events.

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.

United Community Ministries (UCM)

7511 Fordson Road
Alexandria, VA 22306
571-255-8993



Shannon White

shannon.white@ucmagency.org
www.ucmagency.org

Mission Statement: United Community Ministries empowers our neighbors in need to transform their lives.

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 or summer volunteers are also needed for tutoring of elementary & middle school students at UCM's Creekside Community Center and UCM's Sacramento Neighborhood Center.

Training: Once online application is complete, volunteers will be granted access to our online calendar to sign up for volunteer opportunities. Training will be offered based on each program's needs.

Minimum Age: 16

Minimum Age w/Adult: 13

Is this organization group friendly? Yes

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

Public Transportation: Yes, bus and metro accessible

Requirements for applying: Online application, background check for those working with children, and other as needed by specific programs.

Long Term Commitment: Available based on the desire of the volunteer.

Vinson Hall

Various sites (see below)
McLean, VA



703-506-4251

Amy Bian

amyb@vinsonhall.org

www.nmcgrf.org/treasure-shop

Mission Statement: The mission of Vinson Hall Retirement Community and Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence Foundation is to enrich the lives of those around us so they are free to live life to the fullest.

Volunteer Opportunities: Treasure Shop Assistance: Volunteers are needed to assist with all areas of Treasure Shop including cash register, sorting, and filing. **Activities:** Volunteers are needed to assist the Activity department with scheduled activities; residents from three levels of care participate in activities 7 days a week. Volunteers help escort residents to and from activities, encourage participation, socialize with the residents, and share special talents. **Independent Living:** Provide computer help and assistance with other small tasks. **Resident Visits:** Engage in one-to-one visits with residents to share life experiences.

Training: Application and orientation

Minimum Age: 14 for Treasure Shop Assistance and 15 for Activities

Minimum Age w/Adult: N/A

Is this organization group friendly? Contact agency

Times Needed:

For Treasure Shop Assistance: Mondays - Saturdays from 10am-5pm (shifts)

For Activities, shifts vary throughout the year; activities are held daily from 10:00am until 5:00pm.

Public Transportation: No

Requirements for applying: None

Long Term Commitment: Request a 3 month commitment

Locations: All locations are in McLean, VA

Treasure Shop:

6246 Old Dominion Drive
McLean, VA 22101

Computer Assistance for Independent Living Residents:

6251 Old Dominion Drive
McLean, VA 22101

Activities:

Arleigh Burke Pavilion (Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living)
1739 Kirby Road
McLean, VA 22101

The Sylvestery (Memory Support)

1728 Kirby Road
McLean, VA 22101

Resident Visits:

Arleigh Burke Pavilion (Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living)
1739 Kirby Road
McLean, VA 22101

The Sylvestery (Memory Support)

1728 Kirby Road
McLean, VA 22101

Volunteer Fairfax

Opportunities throughout Fairfax County
10530 Page Avenue
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
703-246-3460



VolsRUs@volunteerfairfax.org
www.volunteerfairfax.org
www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/just-for-youth.php

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 27, 2018: 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 21, 2019: 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

Youth Service Opportunities Project

1317 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.347.2525



Cassie Kienbaum
ckienbaum@ysop.org
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.¹

Why Use Service Learning?

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

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

¹ The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

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

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 plants and ecosystems, is used as a focal point for the study of geology, ecology, and agriculture.

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

Additional Resources

Online Resources

Volunteer Facts and Statistics

Youth Service America – www.ysa.org

Generation On - Kids Care - www.kidscare.org

Service Learning

Generator School Network – <https://gsn.nylc.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

Youth Service Opportunities Project - www.ysop.org

Youth Activism/Resources

Do Something - www.dosomething.org

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

Youth In Action – www.youthinactionri.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 to those 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

AmeriCorps is an opportunity to make a big difference in your life and in the lives of those around you. It's a chance to apply your skills and ideals toward helping others and meeting critical needs in the community. Each year, AmeriCorps offers 75,000 opportunities for adults of all ages and backgrounds to serve through a network of partnerships with local and national nonprofit groups. Whether your service makes a community safer, gives a child a second chance, or helps protect the environment, you'll be getting things done through AmeriCorps!

You must be at least 17 years old, although some service opportunities require you to be at least 18. For one of our programs, the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), members must be between 18 and 24 years old, but for most there are no upper age limits.

City Year: www.cityyear.org

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

Amigos de las Americas: www.amigosinternation.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 who 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 dedicated volunteers who have made this Directory possible:

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