

Non-Profit News

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Volunteer In The New Year

People volunteer in many different ways and for different lengths of time. Whether you volunteer a few hours a month, once a year, or volunteer on an ongoing basis, whatever time you give will be useful and appreciated.

Consider these options:

Help with One-time Events

Volunteer to help with a project requiring many helpers on one particular day such as a holiday function, a fund-raiser or a mass training event. You can be of real help while getting a sense of how the organization works, who else volunteers and how you fit in. Most one-time assignments involve groups of volunteers, a club, school or church group. You can volunteer with your group to test the waters and then follow up on your own, or better yet, bring a friend!

Work on Short-term Assignments

Organizations often need volunteers to tackle a specific project that, with a little extra attention, are completed in a designated timeframe. "Short-term" therefore can vary from a few full days to several hours a month for a few months. Again, the possibilities are limitless: translating materials into another language, updating a booklet or manual, installing or programming computers, Web site work, teaching a skill to others, donating your professional expertise as a consultant on some project.

Volunteering on Vacation

Did you ever consider volunteering during your vacation? It's the perfect way to make a difference during your time off. Get to know the organization in advance and find out what opportunities they have coming up while you will be on vacation. Then you can schedule your time and ensure your work will be fulfilling and meaningful to you.

Register Your Talents with a Skill Bank

A variation on the short-term assignment is the skill bank. You register the skill you are willing to offer. Then you are contacted when you are needed. Often these volunteers are active in some capacity already, but have a special skill that may be needed only occasionally. Do you speak another language? Would you be willing to be on-call to translate in an emergency? Are you a marketing whiz, computer programmer, a top sales person or motivational speaker? Would you be willing to teach/speak to a group of volunteers/staff? Each project you accept is on a short-term basis, and after it is completed your name remains in the skills bank.

Once You Are Ready for Ongoing Commitments

Once you know that you want to volunteer in a substantial way, you can offer your time on a regular schedule, weekly or monthly, for a specific length of time, renewing or changing as you progress in your volunteer career.

Being On-Call

At the Red Cross once you have become involved with us as a volunteer, taken all the required classes and know how to do the work required by your chosen volunteer assignment, you might be able to achieve maximum flexibility by being "on call." You can pick and choose your teaching assignments, work a particular special event, substitute for other volunteers, help in an emergency or handle other unexpected needs.

Whatever your interests are, we have some great organizations here locally that surely need your help! Contact the organization that interests you most to determine the best way to match your unique talents and interests with providing services in our community.

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