

THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING?

Use this as a guide to form a clear idea of your preferences and the outcomes you envision from your volunteer experiences.

What motivates you?

- Belief in a particular cause or issue
- Desire to utilize your skills and experience
- Closeness to an issue because you have been personally affected by it
- Desire to explore your strengths
- Desire to fulfill religious obligations or beliefs
- Desire to be with friends who volunteer
- Desire to learn new skills (fundraising, technical, organizational, communication)
- Desire to address a pressing community problem or build on a community asset
- Desire to help someone or feel needed
- Desire to give back
- Desire to use free time productively
- Desire to meet others with like values or make new friends
- Desire to build a resume or make professional contacts
- Desire to gain academic credit
- Desire to increase knowledge about issues
- Other _____

What Knowledge / skills do you have?

- Organizational, maintenance, event production, companionship, artistic, athletic, professional (legal, accounting, medical, teaching)
- Other _____

What do you enjoy doing?

- Local vs. state vs. national vs. international
- Direct service vs. behind-the-scenes
- Indoors vs. outdoors
- Working with young children, adolescents, youth with disabilities, older youth, youth at risk
- Researching, writing, editing, organizing, filing, data entry
- Other _____

What resources do you have?

- Transportation, personal contacts in the community
- Other _____

Dos and Don'ts

- Be flexible.
- Attend orientation meetings. They will help you finalize the decision about where to volunteer.
- Take the necessary training classes.
- Be responsible. Be on time. Follow through.
- Start where the organization needs assistance; work your way into particular areas of interest.
- Plan to pay for incidental expenses (transportation, parking, child care).
- Make a realistic time commitment.