



Student Community Service Information

Assisting students, sponsors and parents in their search for youth volunteer opportunities

Each year hundreds of students look for ways to volunteer and fulfill their required school community service hours. Many begin the process early while others wait until the last possible moment. In the process, the search can be a point of frustration for the student, parent, sponsor and the local nonprofit agency.

In this informational brochure Volunteer McKinney Center has compiled basic information from local agencies about volunteer expectations as well as the “how to” in approaching these agencies. To help you expedite the process, we have also listed agencies that have policies for working with youth volunteers.

Take a few moments and review the following information. Your search for volunteer opportunities will be more successful and rewarding.

In your search you will find some agencies cannot engage youth in their volunteer programs while others will accept youth with certain restrictions. Remember their clients are their first priority along with any risk issues that may be encountered. Each agency is faced with overwhelming tasks each day with very limited funding and personnel. For many of them their doors would close without committed volunteers. However, there are and can be volunteer limitations. While they would like to help you fulfill your needs, their first priority must be the needs of their clients.

Benefits of volunteering:

- You make a difference in a life
- Important experience for college entrance and job resumes
- It is life changing
- A Have to turns into a want to
- You just might have some fun!

Before you begin, take time to get to know YOU:

Before you undertake the journey to find a place to serve, consider the following questions:

1. What are my interests?
2. Do I have any passions?
3. What need touches my heart?

Now you're ready to begin:

- Contact the agency/organization directly asking for the person who is the volunteer manager. *They would prefer to speak with the student not the parent.*
- DO NOT wait until the last minute. Most agencies cannot accept you on short notice.
- Do your homework-have some idea what you would like to do and what the agency does offer. Go to their website or volunteermckinney.org for that information
- Know what times you have available to volunteer
- Be clear, concise, positive and respectful.
- Dress appropriately and make eye contact when meeting with the agency.

Once you have secured the volunteer job please:

Each agency has their own policies; interview and orientation processes but all agencies do require the following:

- Follow the rules
- Be on time
- No profanity
- Take your job seriously
- Have a positive attitude
- Be willing to go the extra mile

Expect the agency to:

- Be courteous and respectful
- Provide a defined volunteer job
- Direction and training
- Return your email or phone call

**Many agencies do not accept youth court appointed community service. You will need to contact the agencies directly to see what their policies are regarding this issue.*

Contact the following agencies for possible youth volunteer opportunities:

American Red Cross - 972-562-0601 16 yrs + without parent. Under 16 yrs volunteer with parent. Group drives also available.

Angel League Athletics Association - 972-548-7898 972-569-0947 12 years + without parent

Boys and Girls Club - 214-544-8924 15 yrs + volunteer without parent

Chestnut Square Historic Village - 972-562-8790 16 yrs + volunteer without parents-Group projects available

Collin County Historical Society - 972-542-9457 16 yrs. + volunteer without parent

Collin County Committee on Aging (Meals on Wheels) 972-562-6996 x125 Office & thrift store 16 yrs + without parent Children can volunteer with parent delivering meals if parent informs staff

Community Food Pantry - 972-547-4404 (call 1-3 PM) 12 yrs + volunteer without parent, 6-11 yrs with parent. Food drives-all ages.

Heard Natural Science Museum - 972-562-5566 x227 16 yrs + without parent. 10-15 yrs with parent

MADD - 214-637-0372 Special prevention projects and events 9-12th grade, 17 yrs + volunteer without parent

ManeGait Therapeutic Horsemanship - 469-742-9611 14 yrs + without parent

McKinney Family YMCA - 972-529-2559 13 yrs + without parent

McKinney Performing Arts Center-972-547-2650 Must be 16 yrs to volunteer with/without a parent

McKinney Public Library - 972-547-7323 x 0 Must be 14 yrs and above

North Collin County Habitat for Humanity - 972-542-5300 14-15 yrs can paint & landscape, 16-17 yrs can work on build but cannot use power tools. Younger students can help with fundraising.

Samaritan Inn - 972-562-7375 18 yrs + to volunteer without parent. Age is open when volunteering with parents

Senior Recreation Center - 972-547-7492 16 yrs + without parent

SPCA of Texas-McKinney Campus - 214-461-1901 12-17 yrs with parent.

Walk On Therapeutic Horse Riding Program - 972-347-9616 Call for details. This facility is located in Celina.

Retirement Homes - Local assisted living facilities are always in need of volunteers to visit with residents. Ask for the Activities Director. Call VMC for contact information.

Many of the above organizations have events and one time group projects that utilize teen volunteers. Contact them directly about those possibilities.

City of McKinney and Main Street (972-547-2661) need volunteers for their special events, but do require a minimum age: July 4th Event, Trash Pick-up, City of McKinney SWIM, October Fest, Dickens of a Christmas, etc.

McKinney Make A Difference Day (972-542-0679)- 4th Saturday in October- all city service day. Check our website beginning in late August to see projects.

Visit www.volunteermckinney.org for email addresses and more information about the above organizations. Be sure and take note of agencies or opportunities with a smiley face icon (teen students accepted with exceptions).

