

Youth Volunteer Councils - Getting Started

If you still can't decide what to do, here's a great way to get started:

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” -- Margaret Mead

1. Get a group of friends together.
2. Create a survey for your group to find out where there is an interest in an issue or agency.
3. Ask people in your community what they really think needs to be done in their neighborhood or community.
4. Decide what the most critical need is, what your group wants to tackle, and how you can be part of the solution.
5. Recruit adult partners through your school, local organizations and agencies.
6. Ask your school counselor or volunteer coordinator to give you a list of organizations.

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Shop around. It's okay to shop around for the right place to volunteer. Sure, the agency or group must get something out of it, but so should you.
- Ask for feedback. Don't be afraid to ask the person in charge to show you how to do a job or how you are doing.
- Commit to the work. If you really want to learn quickly, commit to volunteering as you would a job. You will be accepted and respected.
- Be flexible. It's hard to find the perfect fit right away. Keep an open mind, and you will discover new things all around you.
- Be responsible. Show up on time and follow through with the assignment you have been given.
- Be brave. If there are no opportunities to volunteer in your community, start your own project.
- Have fun. Expect plenty of personal enjoyment and satisfaction from your volunteer experience.
- Brag Brag Brag! – Its great to show off your accomplishments and achievements – you deserve it and this is also the best way to recruit new volunteers.

Learn more:

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