

Teen Guide to Volunteering



City of Dublin Outreach and Engagement

6555 Shier Rings Road

Dublin, Ohio 43016

614.410.4404

volunteer@dublin.oh.us

www.DublinOhioUSA.gov

Animals, Wildlife & Outdoors

Colony Cats

2740 Festival Lane | Dublin, OH 43017

Ages 14 and under must be accompanied with a parent or guardian

There are many fun and rewarding avenues to volunteering for this worthy cause, most options are based on need and injured animal cases. Colony Cats welcomes your involvement and encourages you to help them in improving the well-being of homeless cats and dogs. Please do not get discouraged if it takes up to a month to get back to you.

Complete volunteer applications [here](#). For more information, contact them via email at volunteer@colonycats.org or phone: [614-570-0471](tel:614-570-0471).

Sedona Grace Foundation

P.O. Box 664 | Dublin, OH 43017

Sedona Grace is a non-profit that relies on volunteers and donors to provide pet food for local families in need. Often times, when families are struggling to put food on the table, they are faced with the hard decision of having to give up their pets. You can help by running a donation drive for pet food or getting a group together to help package the food that is then donated to local food pantries.

To learn more, email dave@sedonagracefoundation.com or send a message [here](#).

Cozy Cat Cottage

10344 Sawmill Road | Powell, OH 43065

Volunteers are welcome to put their talents, skills and ideas to work! Available opportunities include adoption center care takers, sorting recycle items, adoption counselors, event helpers and more.

Download an application online [here](#) or contact jeby@cozycatcottage.org for more information.

Columbus Humane

3015 Scioto Darby Executive Court | Hilliard, OH 43026

Not only will you learn about animals and get lots of licks and tail wags, but you will also meet others who share similar interests. Volunteer opportunities include Dog Care, Dog Training, Cat Care, Rabbit Care, Greeting, Administrative Assistance, and Special Events.

Learn more and fill out the application [here](#).

Canine Collective

11144 US-42 | Plain City, OH 43064

Ages 16 and younger must be accompanied with a parent or guardian

Help showcase adoptable dogs on a Saturday at one local pet store adoption events from 12:30-3:00 pm. Sometimes help is needed to take dogs to vet appointments. Additional volunteers are need to help with event planning, fundraising, and applying for grants. If you are 18 years old, you can also volunteer to walk dogs and help at the kennel (after completing training).

Email info@caninecollective.org for more information or visit their website [here](#).



WHERE TO CARE

Ohio House Rabbit Rescue Adoption Center

5485 N. High Street | Columbus, OH 43214

If you love bunnies, this is the volunteer gig for you! Volunteers are needed to help with bunny socialization, bunny care and more. Group and individual opportunities available.

Learn more about the opportunities [here](#).

Stratford Ecological Center

3083 Liberty Road | Delaware, OH 43015

The Stratford Ecological Center is a non-profit educational farm and nature preserve on 236 acres in Delaware County, Ohio. Volunteer opportunities include greeting visitors at the front desk, office assistance, guiding school children on farm & nature tours, gardening, farm hands, and more!

Volunteer applications can be found [here](#). For more information, e-mail volunteer@stratfordecologicalcenter.org.

Preservation Parks of Delaware County

Various park locations

Volunteers in Parks (VIPs) are essential to the mission of Preservation Parks to protect natural and historic resources and inspire outdoor exploration and learning. Volunteer opportunities include assisting park staff, pulling invasive plants, monitoring bird boxes, hosting park information booths and more!

Apply or learn more about the opportunities [here](#).

Columbus Recreation and Parks

Various locations

Throughout the spring and summer months, volunteers are needed to assist with park clean-up projects, invasive removal, mulching, landscaping, tree planting and more!

View the latest opportunities online [here](#) or email volunteers@columbus.gov for more information.

Children & Families in Need

One Dublin (formerly Welcome Warehouse)

6305 Brand Road | Dublin, OH 43016

One Dublin offers a variety of volunteer opportunities throughout the year in their free store; sorting donations, translation services, bed deliveries and special events. Various opportunities are available year-round!

Learn more and sign up to help [here](#) or email volunteers@one-dublin.org.

Dublin Food Pantry

6608 Dublin Center Drive | Dublin, OH 43017

Ages 17 and younger must be accompanied with a parent or guardian

The Dublin Food Pantry is a choice pantry set-up like a grocery store so clients can shop and select the food they want. It takes approximately 150 volunteers each week to operate the Pantry and an additional 500+ volunteers to run the major food drives and the holiday Harvest of Hope food distribution. After school shifts are available for students during the school year!

Student volunteering information can be found [here](#) or email jim@dublinfoodpantry.com for more information.

M.A.S.H. Pantry & Resource Center

Various locations (Grove City and Marysville)

Ages 13 and older – must be registered in school

M.A.S.H. (Military And Service Heroes) serves veterans and current armed forces members through food pantries, toy drives, and other projects.

Find applications [here](#) or email info@mashpantry.org with questions.

FESTA

Various locations

9th Grade and above

Located in Hilliard and Columbus, teen volunteers can help by providing meals, serving as hospitality members and assist with ESL classes.

Learn more and sign up [here](#).

Habitat ReStore

Various locations

Ages 16 and older

From customer service to furniture repair, the Habitat ReStore offers volunteers opportunities geared toward individual interests and skills. Volunteers help Habitat ReStore support local building projects for those in need in many communities and around the world.

Sign up [here](#) or email volunteers@habitatmidohio.org.

WHERE TO CARE

LSS Food Pantry

Various Locations

Ages 12 and older - Certain opportunities may have different age restrictions

In 2023, over 2,500 volunteers gave almost 40,000 hours to help those in need. Volunteers will assist in food pantries setting up produce and personal care items or in kitchens preparing meals and washing dishes.

More information can be found [here](#).

Mid-Ohio Food Collective

Various Locations

Certain opportunities may have different age restrictions

The Mid-Ohio Food Collective is all about helping those in need, with initiatives in food banks, kitchens, farming, and health-care. From packing food, to growing food, there is something for everyone.

Visit their [website](#) to learn more and register as a volunteer.

Feed the Kids Columbus

8400 Warner Rd, Suite 600 | Plain City, OH 43064

Help provide food to local kids and families in need by making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to donate. Additional opportunities include making Kindness Cards and warehouse maintenance.

Register and learn more [here](#).

Smoky Row Food Pantry

7260 Smoky Row Road | Columbus, OH 43235

Smoky Row Food Pantry serves anyone who comes to their pantry, regardless of zip code. Help is needed in various roles such as set up, packing, carrying, and more.

Visit their [website](#) for more information.

Hilliard Food Pantry

3691 Main Street | Hilliard, OH 43026

Ages 14 and older | Age 13 must be accompanied with a parent or guardian

Hilliard Food Pantry is also looking for volunteers to be greeters, shoppers, and lifters (moving food and packages around).

Visit their website [here](#) or email ewest@hilliardfoodpantry.org for more information.

D.N.A. Community Center

7675 Amity Pike | Plain City, OH 43064

Certain opportunities may have different age restrictions

D.N.A. (Daily Needs Assistance) facility to help those in need in the community. Volunteers are needed to assist with free breakfasts, sorting and stocking shelves, pantry distribution and more.

Visit their [website](#) to learn more and register as a volunteer.

Worthington Resource Pantry

6700 Huntley Road | Columbus, OH 43229

Ages 14 and older

Volunteers help with greeting and guiding shoppers, pack food to be delivered, unloading donations, and more. Worthington Resource Pantry has been able to provide over 1.4 million meals to 124K neighbors in need.

Sign-up or learn more about opportunities [here](#).

Westerville Area Resource Ministry

450 Heatherdown Drive | Westerville, OH 43081

Ages 14 and older

Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM) provides food, economic, and spiritual support to those in need, having served over 30,000 people. Help is needed in the pantry, general maintenance, greeting, and helping workforce development.

Sign-up [here](#) or contact [614.899.0196](tel:614.899.0196)

People In Need of Delaware County

138 Johnson Drive | Delaware, OH 43015

People In Need (PIN) of Delaware County is a non-profit social services agency dedicated to providing emergency assistance to Delaware County residents. Volunteers assist with filling orders, restocking shelves, office/clerical work, special projects and more.

Fill out an application [here](#) or email info@delawarepeopleinneed.org with questions.

Neighborhood Services, Inc.

1950 North 4th Street | Columbus, OH 43201

Ages 14 and older (14-15 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian)

Volunteers staff the food pantry Monday - Friday from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm, or help organize and clean the warehouse Tuesdays and Fridays starting at 1:00 pm. Register clients, help them shop in the choice food pantry, assist with stocking shelves, unload delivery trucks, and perform other duties as needed. Volunteers, including groups, also assist with monthly produce markets, holiday programs, and light maintenance work around the pantry.

Visit their [website](#) to learn more or email cpschilling@nsifoodpantry.org to volunteer as a group.

United Methodist Church All People's Fresh Market & Free Store

946 Parsons Avenue | Columbus, OH 43206

The United Methodist Free Store provides clothing and household items to individuals and families in a hospitable atmosphere that affirms the self-worth of each individual. More than 50,000 families have become members of the Free Store since they opened in January 1999. Additionally, the All People's Fresh Market works in collaboration with the Mid-Ohio Food bank to distribute nearly 2 million pounds of produce this year.

Learn more and sign up [here](#).

WHERE TO CARE

Common Ground Free Store

193 East Central Ave | Delaware, OH 43015

Ages 15 and older | 6th grade – 8th grade (Needs Parental or Guardian Accompaniment)

Located just next door to Dublin in Delaware, Ohio this free store offers clothing, shoes, household items, food and more to community members in need. Volunteers are needed each day to assist with greeting shoppers, stocking shelves, serving food and more.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Ronald McDonald House

711 E. Livingston Avenue | Columbus, OH 43205

Ages 14 and older – Certain opportunities may have different restrictions

The Ronald McDonald House is supported by a strong foundation of volunteers. Their gifts of love and compassion make this House more than just a place to stay, they make it a home. Whether you are an individual wanting to support families in or out of House, or a group looking to come to the House for a few hours, there is an opportunity to give that is perfect for all!

Contact Meika.Hilles@rmhc-centralohio.org for more information or learn more about each opportunity [here](#).

YWCA Family Center

900 Harvey Court | Columbus, OH 43219

Ages 15 and older – Some roles have no minimum age but must be accompanied with a parent or guardian

The YWCA Family Center provides emergency, short-term shelter and assistance with critical services to help stabilize homeless families in Central Ohio. Sign-up to help during meal services, organizing donations, or general maintenance.

Visit [here](#) for more information or email volunteer_donations@ywcacolumbus.org.

Civic Service - City of Dublin

Culture Corner

Help celebrate Dublin's diversity by teaming up to create educational and creative displays highlighting the many cultural holidays celebrated in Dublin. The Culture Corner is on display at the Dublin Community Recreation Center as well as digitally on the City of Dublin social media sites.

Email Shannon at smaurer@dublin.oh.us to get involved.

Upcoming Community Events

Our special events are renowned in the City of Dublin thanks to a responsive and talented group of volunteers who make them possible: **Independence Day Celebration (July 4)**, **Dublin Irish Festival (Aug. 1-3)**, Halloween Spooktacular (Oct. 16-17), and Annual Tree Lighting (Dec. 4). Our event volunteers team up to bring safe, enjoyable events to life in Dublin.

Contact volunteer@dublin.oh.us or visit our volunteer hub [here](#) for more information.

Keep Dublin Green

Park cleanup kits are a great flexible option for individuals and groups to give back to the community by cleaning litter from Dublin parks. The kit includes trash and recycle bags, gloves, safety vests, a first aid kit and even a scavenger hunt.

To reserve a kit, please complete [this](#) online form and we will be in touch with next steps

Dublin Teen Buddy Program

Now recruiting passionate teens to make a difference in the lives of older adults in the community by helping to combat loneliness and isolation through building intergenerational relationships. Buddy matches are made based on mutual interests, both teens and older adults complete interest forms prior to participating in the program. **Program kicks off fall 2025.**

Reach out to Shannon at smaurer@dublin.oh.us for more information.

Recreation Program Assistants

Ages 15 and older

Dublin's Preschool/Youth and Nature Education programming are robust throughout the year and our instructors need willing volunteers to help with participant check-in, set-up, monitoring and assisting with activities throughout the program and clean-up at the end.

Contact Shannon at smaurer@dublin.oh.us for more details and to schedule.

MLK Civic Service Series

The MLK Civic Service Series is a collection of four volunteer projects and community impact discussions to honor Reverend King's vision of creating a Beloved Community.

Check out the MLK Civic Service Series webpage [here](#) for updates and other upcoming projects.



Theater Ushers

There are many amazing productions scheduled at the Abbey Theater. Ushers assist patrons with seating, wayfinding and collecting tickets.

Contact Shannon at smaurer@dublin.oh.us for details and to schedule.

Wee Folk Room

Ages 12 and older

The Wee Folk Room is a babysitting room at the DCRC staffed Monday-Sunday. Volunteers are needed to help with reading stories, leading activities and assisting staff with the children. The objective is to safely interact with kids, allowing staff to tend to other duties while under their supervision.

Email Shannon at smaurer@dublin.oh.us for more information.

Diversity & Inclusion

Noor Islamic Cultural Center

5001 Wilcox Road | Dublin, OH 43016

Volunteers assist in various tasks around the center, including youth programs, social media management, IT, and other special talents.

Complete a volunteer interest form [here](#) to find out more.

Stonewall Columbus

1160 N. High Street | Columbus, OH 43201

Stonewall Columbus is the center for the LGBTQQ+ community in Central Ohio, focusing on advocacy, education, support, and community. Volunteer opportunities are available at the Community Center and for Pride events.

Visit their website [here](#) for more information.

Kaleidoscope Youth Center

603 E. Town Street | Columbus, OH 43215

Volunteers assist in the youth drop-in center with programming, special events, cleaning, etc.

Complete an interest form [here](#), or reach out via e-mail - info@kycoho.org for more information.

Libraries, Museums & Art

Dublin Arts Council

7125 Riverside Drive | Dublin, OH 43016

Volunteering for Dublin Arts Council is more than just gallery sitting or stuffing envelopes. The positive energy that you generate through the gift of your time, personality, and skill is contagious. The act of giving of yourself extends through all the areas of your life and touches the lives around you.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Dublin Arts Council, call [614.889.7444](tel:614.889.7444) or contact Katy Marque at marque@dublinarts.org.

Columbus Metropolitan Library

Various Locations

Ages 12 and older – Age requirements may vary by location

The library depends on volunteers to work hand-in-hand with staff to provide the best possible service to customers. They check in with a wide variety of interests and passions and at the end of the day they check out knowing they made a difference in a reader's life. There are a limited number of opportunities, so sign-up early. Please note that some branches' available volunteer slots fill up fast, so you may be asked to select another location.

Learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit online [here](#) or call [614.849.1055](tel:614.849.1055).

Hilliard Arts Council

5425 Center Street | Hilliard, OH 43026

Volunteers help support the mission of enhancing the cultural and economic vitality of the community by inspiring, enlivening and educating through the arts. Duties include assisting with painting scenery, ushering at events, helping with social media and more.

Learn more about getting involved [here](#).

COSI

33 W. Broad Street | Columbus, OH 43215

Ages 14 and older

Bring STEM learning to everyone. Volunteers are critical to daily operations from greeting guests, exhibit operations, and providing education there.

Explore and register online [here](#) or email cosivolunteers@cosi.org.

Franklin Park Conservatory

1777 E. Broad Street | Columbus, OH 43203

Ages 18 and older | Ages 15 – 17 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

Volunteers are the heart of Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, contributing their time, talents, enthusiasm and energy. Activities in areas throughout the Conservatory include horticulture, education, exhibitions or visitors services.

Register online [here](#); email volunteers@fpconservatory.org or call [614.715.8098](tel:614.715.8098) for additional information.

Special Needs

Dublin Special Olympics

7030 Coffman Road | Dublin, OH 43017

Ages 13 and younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian | Ages 14 - 17 require parental consent

Dublin Special Olympics exists to provide year-round sports training and competition opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Volunteers are needed to assist athletes in individual sports programs.

For more information, visit them online [here](#) and email completed forms to dublinspecialolympics@gmail.com.

A Kid Again

Various locations

An A Kid Again volunteer is someone who brings the fun and excitement to an A Kid Again experience. Various opportunities are open for teens to engage with young kids with life-threatening conditions and their families to create lasting carefree memories.

Learn more and sign up [here](#) or email ahofacre@akidagain.org.

Adaptive Sports Connection

6000 Harriott Drive | Powell, OH 43065

Adaptive Sports Connection relies on over 400 volunteers to help create Boundless Possibilities for thousands of children, adults, and veterans with physical and cognitive challenges by focusing on abilities.

Learn more and sign up [here](#).

Willow Ridge Therapeutic Riding Facility

9302 Brock Road | Plain City, OH 43064

Willow Ridge provides assisted therapy for higher functioning children with special needs. Volunteer opportunities vary from general barn chores to leading horses during a session, depending on the amount of horsemanship experience that the volunteer has.

For more information, contact Pam at willowridge12@gmail.com or [614.778.9122](tel:614.778.9122)

Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

2879 Johnstown Road | Columbus, OH 43219

This Franklin County agency provides support to children and adults who have developmental disabilities. There are opportunities to get involved with summer programs for children, adult recreation programs, and more.

Program information can be found [here](#) or by calling [614.475.6440](tel:614.475.6440) for more information.

WHERE TO CARE

Heinzerling Foundation

1800 Heinzerling Drive | Columbus, OH 43223

Ages 14 and older | Ages 11- 13 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

Volunteering here is an investment because, in the process of helping others, you often discover more of your own strength and self-worth. It's very rewarding to see many of the resident's progress step-by-step and know that you are a part of that. As a Heinzerling volunteer, you will make a huge difference in a resident's life. You will turn your good intentions into reality and change a life forever.

Learn more about the several opportunities [here](#) or email skohli@heinzerling.org.

Dreams on Horseback

1416 Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road | Blacklick, OH 43004

Ages 14 and older

This therapeutic riding facility helps people of all ages and abilities with challenges to improve their lives through horse-assisted learning experiences and education. Volunteers are needed to assist with participants and other duties.

For more information, visit them online [here](#) or reach out to Info@DreamsOnHorseback.org.

Seniors/Assisted Living

National Church Residences

Various locations

There are various locations and many different ways to serve the senior residents at one of local National Church Residences facilities. Host a game night, teach residents basic computer skills, organize and lead an arts & crafts project, read to a senior, share your talents, etc.

Email volunteers@nationalchurchresidences.org or apply online [here](#)

Source Point

800 Cheshire Road | Delaware, OH 43015

Ages 13 and younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian | Ages 14 and older

Source Point provides senior care and you can help out too! From art assistants, to home help, Meals on Wheels assistance, to office assistant there are plenty of opportunities available for teens, groups, and families.

Learn more about each program and apply [here](#) or email info@MySourcePoint.org.

Caretenders Hospice Columbus

2550 Corporate Exchange Drive | Columbus, OH 43231

Hospice volunteers donate their time and effort to provide comfort for someone with life-limiting illness. Volunteers assist in administrative roles, patient care, bereavement, and other support.

Learn more about each program and apply [here](#).

Dublin Retirement Village

6470 Post Road | Dublin, OH 43016

Ages 16 and older

Volunteer opportunities vary; help with Family Fun Nights, sit and talk with a senior, plan a group activity, assist with serving meals, and more.

Reach out to Julie Dyer for more information jdyer@seniorstar.com.

Friendship Village of Dublin

6000 Riverside Drive | Dublin, OH 43017

Ages 14 and older

Volunteer opportunities range from providing entertainment to package delivery, with project/skills-based options available as well.

Apply online [here](#) or call [614.764.1600](tel:614.764.1600) for more information.

WHERE TO CARE

Stems For Seniors

Stems For Seniors takes flowers and arranges them into bouquets to be delivered with Meals on Wheels, senior centers, hospice care, and more. Volunteers are needed to pick up, arrange and deliver flowers as well as preparing/decorating the jars/cans to put flowers in.

Email StemsForSniors@gmail.com or learn more about them [here](#)

Zusman Hospice – Wexner Heritage Village

1151 College Avenue | Columbus, OH 43209

Volunteers are needed help host game nights (poker, ping pong, mahjong), share stories with seniors, teach technology, and more.

Reach out to Judi Koval for more information at jkoval@whv.org or [614.231.4900](tel:614.231.4900) ext 1474.

Other Ways to Connect

Connections – The Delaware County Volunteer Center

39 W. Winter Street | Delaware, OH 43015

Ages 13 and older - Certain opportunities may have different restrictions

Connections is the Delaware County Volunteer Center, offering more than 300 volunteer opportunities at over 300 nonprofit agencies. Connections matches individuals with opportunities and coordinates Days of Service. Visit online for more detailed information.

Apply online [here](#) or email connections@helplinedelmor.org for more information.

American Red Cross

Various locations

Ages 13 and older

Teens can serve as a Youth Action Campaign Advocate, supporting the Regional Service to the Armed Forces department and promoting the values of International Humanitarian Law in your community.

Learn more and apply [here](#).



Youth Volunteerism Facts & Stats

- **Making an Economic Difference**
Teenagers volunteer 2.4 billion hours annually – worth \$34.4 billion to the US economy (University of Nevada, Reno).
- **You Are A Change-Maker**
92% of young people say that “volunteering locally to help people directly” is an effective way to make change (National Youth Survey, 20/20 Vision).
- **More Teens Volunteer Than Adults**
Out of 13.3 million youth, 59.3% volunteer an average of 3.5 hours per week, versus 49% of the adult population volunteer an average of 4.2 hours. (University of Nevada, Reno).
- **Youth Who Volunteer Do Well in School**
Youth who volunteer are more likely to do well in school, graduate, vote and be philanthropic (UCLA/Higher Education Research Institute).
- **Youth Who Volunteer are Less Prone to Drug Abuse**
Youth who volunteer just one hour or more a week are 50% less likely to abuse drugs, alcohol, cigarettes or engage in other destructive behaviors (Search Institute).
- **It Boosts Self-Esteem**
Volunteering or participating in activities that help others is a good place to start for teens who need a boost in self-esteem. (Journal of Adolescence).
- **Improves Overall Well-Being**
Compared to kids who hadn’t participated in community service in the past year, those who had were 34% more likely to be in excellent or very good health, 66% more likely to be considered “flourishing”, and 35% less likely to have behavioral problems. In addition, kids ages 12 and older who volunteered were also roughly 25% less likely to have anxiety than peers who didn’t. (American Medical Association, 2023).
- **Several Personal Benefits**
Teens say the benefits received from volunteering are: learning to respect others, learning to be helpful and kind, learning to understand people who are different, developing leadership skills, becoming more patient, and better understanding of citizenship (University of Nevada, Reno).
- **Social Connection**
Volunteering fosters social connections and new relationships, reducing isolation and promoting belonging (Points of Light).
- **It’s Cool!**
Teens rank volunteering, along with the environment and eating healthy, as top three activities they consider “cool” (Teenage Marketing and Lifestyle Study).
- **Sense of Purpose**
Seeing the direct benefits of their service allows for a volunteer to establish a sense of purpose, leading them towards a new passion. Studies show this decreases stress levels, enhancing mental health.