

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

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. For more information, contact them via email at volunteer@colonycats.org or phone: 614-570-0471.

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 [here](#).

Columbus Zoo: ZooAide Program

4850 West Powell Road | Powell, OH 43065

The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's ZooAide program is comprised of teens who demonstrate natural leadership skills, a comprehensive knowledge of animals, a high degree of professionalism and emotional maturity. Designed for teens entering grades 8-12, the ZooAide program offers a unique look at the different aspects available to those interested in pursuing careers in a conservation field. An emphasis is placed on the customer service side of the zoo and aquarium careers. Contact Zoo.Aides@columbuszoo.org.

Ohio Wildlife Center

6131 Cook Road | Powell, OH 43065

Teen volunteers engage with the community and build skills through craft/construction projects or community outreach projects to help the organization gather all the resources they need to best care for wildlife in need. Learn more [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! To volunteer, e-mail info@stratfordecologicalcenter.org.

Ohio House Rabbit Rescue

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](#).

Sedona Grace Foundation

P.O. Box 664 | Dublin, Ohio 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.



WHERE TO CARE

Canine Collective

Help showcase adoptable dogs on a Saturday at one of the Petsmart adoption events from 12:30-3:00 pm. You can also volunteer to walk dogs and help at the kennel (after completing training). Sometimes help is needed to take dogs to vet appointments. Volunteers are needed to help with event planning, fundraising, and applying for grants. Email info@caninecollective.org for more information.

Cozy Cat Cottage

10344 Sawmill Road | Powell, OH 43065

Volunteers age 13 and over 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. To learn more and schedule, email volunteersforcozycatcottage@gmail.com and/or visit them online [here](#).

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 are diverse, fun and educational for individuals, families, groups, school groups, and more. Learn more online [here](#).

Columbus Parks and Recreation

Various park 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 opportunities online [here](#).

Children & Families in Need

Feed the Kids Columbus

Help provide food to local kids and families in need by making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to donate. Register and learn more [here](#).

A Kid Again Adventure Guide

An Adventure Guide is someone who brings the fun and excitement to an A Kid Again experience. Various locations for teens 13-17 to engage in fundraising programs and welcome box deliveries. Learn more and sign up [here](#).

Nationwide Children's Hospital

700 Children's Drive | Columbus, OH 43205

Typically, teen volunteers provide service at the information desk, gift shop, sibling Clubhouse, clinic waiting rooms, *Close to Home* centers, and in office settings. Most assignments will be supporting families, patients and staff. These volunteer positions fill up very fast and there is typically a wait list. For more information, visit them online [here](#).

FESTA

Located in Hilliard. Teen volunteers can help by providing meals, serving as hospitality members and assist with ESL classes. Learn more and sign up [here](#).



WHERE TO CARE

Ronald McDonald House

711 E. Livingston Avenue | Columbus, OH 43205

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 at Meika.Hilles@rmhc-centralohio.org.

Dublin Food Pantry

6608 Dublin Center Drive | Dublin, OH 43017

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. Student volunteering information can be found [here](#).

Other Area Food Pantries:

Hilliard Food Pantry: <https://www.hilliardfoodpantry.org/want-to-help.html> or 614-363-4159

Plain City Food Pantry: <https://www.keepserving.org/>

LSS Food Pantries: various locations; <https://lssnetworkofhope.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/>

Worthington Resource Pantry: <https://www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/volunteer>

Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM): <http://www.warmwesterville.org/> or 614-899-0196

Mid-Ohio Food Collective: <https://mofc.org/volunteer/>

Smoky Row Food Pantry: <https://www.smokyrow.org/pantry>

One Dublin (formerly Welcome Warehouse)

6305 Brand Road | Dublin, OH 43016

One Dublin (Welcome Warehouse) offers a variety of volunteer opportunities throughout the year in their free store; sorting donations, translation services, bed deliveries and special events. Learn more and sign up to help [here](#).

Habitat ReStore

Various Locations. 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. Must be at least 14 years old. Sign up [here](#).

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

YWCA – Family Center

900 Harvey Court | Columbus, OH 43219

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 sort through donations, or reach out to their Volunteer Coordinator to ask about their current needs. Contact Brian Rogers brianrogers@ywcacolumbus.org for more information.

WHERE TO CARE

Neighborhood Bridges – Dublin

Dublin Bridges advocates for children, seniors, and neighbors. Their advocates identify specific needs, then alert the community through email and social media, to fill the needs. They have helped hundreds of Dublin residents in need to receive food, clothing, medical appointments, school fees, furniture, backpacks, and more. Want to help? Sign up [here](#).

People In Need of Delaware County

138 Johnson Drive | Delaware, OH 43015

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. Reach out via email at info@delawarepeopleinneed.org or phone at 740.363.6284.

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

Various locations (Grove City and Marysville)

M.A.S.H. Pantry and Resource Center provides support for our veterans, military families and survivors throughout central Ohio. Learn more about volunteer opportunities by emailing info@mashpantry.org.

Common Ground Free Store

193 East Central Ave | Delaware, OH 43015

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](#).

D.N.A. Community Center

7675 Amity Pike | Plain City, OH 43064

Located not far from Dublin in Plain City, is a Daily Needs Assistance facility to help those in need in the community. Volunteers are needed to assist with Saturday morning free breakfasts, sorting and stocking shelves, pantry distribution and more. Visit their [website](#) to learn more and register as a volunteer.

Neighborhood Services, Inc.

1950 North 4th Street | Columbus, OH 43201

Volunteers staff the food pantry Monday - Thursday from 9 am - 2 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. Get involved by calling 614-297-0592 or email info@neighborhoodservicesinc.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.

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: The St. Patrick's Day Parade, Independence Day Celebration (July 4), Dublin Irish Festival (Aug. 2-4), **Halloween Spooktacular (Oct. 17-18)**, and Annual Tree Lighting (Dec. 5). Our event volunteers team up to bring safe, enjoyable events to life in Dublin. Contact volunteer@dublin.oh.us for more information.

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 2024. Reach out to Shannon at smaurer@dublin.oh.us for more information.

Keep Dublin Green

Park clean up kits are available for anyone looking to give back. The kits include trash and recycle bags, gloves, safety vests, and a scavenger hunt. To reserve a kit, please complete [this](#) online form and we will be in touch with next steps.

Recreation Program Assistants

Dublin's Preschool/Youth and Nature Education programming are robust throughout the year and our instructors need willing volunteers (ages 15+) 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. Next project is Nov. 3, 2024. Check [here](#) for updates.

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

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. Volunteers must be age 12 and up. 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 almost every capacity at the center. Complete a volunteer interest form [online](#) to find out more.

Rainbow Dublin

Dublin's first LGBTQ+ Community Alliance organization is here. Reach out for ways to be involved:

rainbow.dublin.oh@gmail.com.

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

Ohio History Connection

800 E. 17th Avenue | Columbus, OH 43211

Dedicated volunteers truly embody the mission of the Ohio History Connection – they enable the community to connect with the past to understand the present and create a better future. Volunteers help the Ohio History Connection to provide educational and public programming, maintain collections, and provide research and reference services. Administration, Archaeology, Digital Services, Programming and Visitor Studies are just some of the departments that volunteers support. Learn more online [here](#).

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 or contact Katy Marque at marque@dublinarts.org.

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](#).

Franklin Park Conservatory

1777 E. Broad Street | Columbus, OH 43203

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. Volunteers must be at least 15 years of age. Register online [here](#), or email volunteers@fpconservatory.org and call 614.715.8098 for additional information.



Columbus Metropolitan Library

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. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit online [here](#) or call 614.849.1055.

Special Needs

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 [here](#).

Heinzerling Foundation

1800 Heinzerling Drive | Columbus, OH 43223

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 [here](#).

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. Additional information can be found [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

Dublin Special Olympics

7030 Coffman Road | Dublin, OH 43017

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. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old. For more information, visit them online [here](#).

Dreams on Horseback

1416 Reynoldsburg-New Albany Road | Blacklick, OH 43004

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. To learn more, reach out via email to Info@DreamsOnHorseback.org.



Seniors/Assisted Living

National Church Residences

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

P: 740-363-6677 | E: info@MySourcePoint.org

Serve as a kitchen assistant, help with chores, in the foodbank distribution center and more. Most opportunities are open to teenagers, but some are for 18+, be sure to check each project description before applying [here](#).

Brookdale Hospice

5955 Wilcox Place | Dublin, OH 43016

Contact: Tameko Martin, P: 614-210-1150, E: tmartin10@brookdale.com

Be a companion for a hospice patient at Brookdale by reading books, watching TV, play games, arts & crafts, etc.

Dublin Retirement Village

6470 Post Road | Dublin, OH 43016

Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age. 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

Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age. 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 for more information.

Other Ways to Connect

Connections – The Delaware County Volunteer Center

39 W. Winter Street | Delaware, OH 43015

E: connections@helplinedelmor.org | P: 740-363-5000 | Web: [here](#)

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.

American Red Cross

Teens aged 13-24 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.