HAPPY HELPFUL HOLIDAYS!

Latest from Youth Leaders
Welcome back to another edition of YouthWire. It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of this year! With December comes a flurry of events, but we hope you will also take this holiday season to spend time with family and friends, reminisce on the memories you’ve made these past 12 months, and prepare for the new year. The end of the year is also a great time for reflection, starting with understanding the history of the Red Cross mission and our founder, Clara Barton.

The Red Cross commitment to the men and women who serve this country is a tradition that dates back to the Civil War, when Clara Barton began caring for wounded soldiers. Today, the Red Cross leads various activities to help support members of the military, veterans, and their families by helping them prepare for, cope with, and respond to the challenges of military service.

Fun Fact: Did you know Clara Barton was born on Christmas Day? Read her story here.

From all of us to all of you, Happy Holidays!

Red Cross Club Spotlight: Skyview High School

Skyview High School Red Cross Club members from Southwest Washington!

The Skyview High School Red Cross Club dedicated November to Service to the Armed Forces. During the month, they volunteered many hours serving the military heroes in their community. One of their most popular events is called “Breakfast for Veterans,” during which Club members visit the Portland VA Hospital to make breakfast. This event has been so successful that the Club now hosts breakfast every month!

Holidays for Heroes

The Holidays for Heroes program allows the public to send words of inspiration, thanks, and encouragement to our military heroes. If you are looking for a way to celebrate this festive season, you and your Club can host a Holiday Mail for Heroes party! During this card-signing party, volunteers can create and sign cards with messages of thanks and holiday cheer. Make the event memorable with music and food!
You can also get together with friends and family to make cards and show your thanks, this month or any other month. Be sure to connect with your local Red Cross Region or SAF Station for specifics about your community. Don’t forget to share your activities with us on social media or via email!

Expand Your Knowledge

Staying safe this holiday season is our top priority! If you would like to get involved in promoting and learning more about available training this holiday season, consider taking some of our online classes, ranging from First Aid to CPR, water safety, and more. Check out this website for more information on our online courses: [Online Training Classes](#).

What is YouthWire?

Created by your National Youth Council, YouthWire is a monthly e-newsletter containing important Red Cross youth volunteer opportunities, stories, and resources for youth, young adults and youth champions. We are always looking to highlight great stories and want to hear what awesome things are happening in your region!

Let us know what’s new for you!

Questions about youth volunteering with the American Red Cross? Email [YouthInvolvement@redcross.org](mailto:YouthInvolvement@redcross.org)

Get Social and Share!

Follow our Facebook and new Instagram page for updates, events and reminders!
Facebook: @AmericanRedCrossYouthNetwork
Instagram: @americanredcrossyouth

Share this newsletter with your peers and friends or have them email YouthInvolvement@redcross.org to subscribe to our newsletter.

Additionally, during Veterans Day Weekend, Skyview Red Cross Club members and other youth volunteers from across the Southwest Washington Region marched through pouring rain for the community’s annual Veterans Day Parade. The 47 youth volunteers helped raise awareness for military heroes and thanked them for their incredible service. The Skyview Red Cross Club’s work is an inspiration to us all - be sure to check them out on our Instagram!

December | Universal Human Rights Month

December 10th marks the United Nation’s adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is celebrated as “World Human Rights Day.” The declaration upholds human dignity, such as the rights to liberty, social equality and education.

The American Red Cross is deeply committed to promoting human rights. The [International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Youth Action Campaign](https://www.redcross.org/youth/ial) is an opportunity for youth and young adults ages 13-24 to understand and raise awareness of how IHL reconciles the reality of armed conflicts with the protection of lives and preservation of human dignity. Become an advocate today by starting your [IHL Youth Action Campaign](https://www.redcross.org/youth/ial)!