Guide: Volunteering from Home

As we practice social distancing to stay safe during the COVID-19 outbreak, there are many ways that you can still make a difference volunteering from home.

This guide provides a range of at-home volunteer activities. Opportunities vary by region, so please check with your local team to identify which are available for you.

We are so proud of all that you do to support the lifesaving Red Cross mission. Please share your volunteering from home (#VFH) experiences with our national youth platforms and your regional communication channels (details below).

Because you are a critical part of our volunteer workforce, be sure to log your hours on Volunteer Connection. Download the Volunteer Connection mobile app (Apple and Google Play) to submit your volunteer hours in the palm of your hand!

Questions? Email YouthInvolvement@redcross.org.

Thank you!
CONTEST TIME! Share Your #VFH Stories on Social

- Follow and tag @americanredcrossyouth on Instagram and Facebook
- April 2020 Instagram and Facebook Competition:
  - When: April 2-10, 2020
  - Where: Instagram and Facebook; you can choose one or both platforms
  - Rules: Promote the American Red Cross Youth Network on Facebook and @americanredcrossyouth on Instagram:
    - Get three people to follow/join (must not have already been following). If you are participating on Facebook, ensure that the new members of the group answer all questions for their join request to be processed.
    - Tag these new followers in the comments below our April 2 post.
  - How to Win: Participants will entered into a drawing for three winners to be randomly selected for a shout-out on our main Instagram and Facebook pages and featured in a segment to share how they support the Red Cross mission while #VFH, inspiring others to do the same.

Fun for All

- Cutout Clara: Use Cutout Clara in your new volunteering from home routine. Share pictures of your #VFH activities with captions like, “Cut out Clara and I are #stayingsafe and #savinglives by…”
- Pathways: Tell us your Red Cross story. Fill out this editable template and share it with us on Instagram or email your pathways to youthinvolvement@redcross.org for it to be highlighted on our social channels.
- COVID-19 Safety: On your personal social media accounts, share lifesaving safety and preparedness tips for COVID-19 from Red Cross national, Red Cross regional, International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent (IFRC) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) accounts. Ask your regional communications team how best to share this information to your local community.
- Chapter Blog: Blog for your region! Ask your regional communications team if there are opportunities to write a blog post or share your #VFH experiences. For example, spread the word about the critical need for blood donations (below).

Biomedical Services

- Tweets to Thank: Use social media to thank blood donors and promote donating blood to help save lives, as the Red Cross faces a severe blood shortage.
- In-person, vital Biomedical opportunities (region-based):
  - URGENT NEED for Blood Donors: The Red Cross faces a severe blood shortage due to an unprecedented number of blood drive cancellations during this coronavirus outbreak. Healthy individuals are needed to donate now and in the weeks ahead to help patients counting on lifesaving blood.
Make an appointment at redcrossblood.org and signing up for an appointment. You must be at least 17 years old in most states to donate blood, or 16 years old with parental consent if allowed by state law (see guidelines and eligibility).

- **New opportunity, Blood Donor Screener**: If you are healthy and able to come to blood drives or blood centers, apply to be blood drive greeters and/or temperature takers. Open for volunteers 18+ years of age.
- **Other opportunities**, which vary by region, are available, such as Transportation Specialist to deliver lifesaving blood. Contact your local Volunteer Services department to learn about specific requirements for opportunities like this.

**Disaster Cycle Services**

- **Virtual Disaster Training Options**: Now is a great time to brush up your disaster training! Review training materials together as a club or individually, and develop a training plan for the next few months.
- **Virtual Preparedness Presentations**: Partner with adult volunteers or AmeriCorps members to provide virtual Be Red Cross Ready presentations for partners and communities where they’ve been postponed. Check with your local Preparedness team to see if this is available in your region.
- **Virtual Disaster Recovery**: Young adults (ages 18-24) can be trained to provide casework services remotely. Contact your local Disaster Cycle Services team to see what casework needs are in your region and what training may be required.

**Service to the Armed Forces (SAF) and International Services Department (ISD)**

- **Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS) Card Program**: Provide military recruits and their families with information to assist them in knowing what to do if faced with an emergency.
- **Missing Maps**: Map vulnerable communities around the world to help first responders locate and deliver lifesaving aid.
  - Host a [virtual Missing Mapathon](https://example.com)! Invite your club members and friends to digitally connect and map the most vulnerable places in the developing world, using applications such as Kast to synchronize screens and Google Hangouts or Zoom to discuss while mapping. To learn how to coordinate a virtual mapathon, contact your local International Services Department.
- **IHL Youth Action Campaign**: Join the movement and help educate others on the laws of armed conflict, using social media to spread awareness.
  - Host virtual movie nights to promote Global Youth Services Day, April 17-19, 2020, using applications such as Kosmi or Kast for synchronization of screens. Use platforms such as Google Hangouts, Skype, Microsoft Teams or Zoom to discuss the film.
  - **Raid Cross**: Join an experiential IHL training course via video call.
Volunteer Services

- Take courses on EDGE about Volunteer Connection, communication skills and a variety of other topics. Register for trainings here. (see instructions on how to get started). If you haven’t already, start with these courses: Using Edge as a Learner, Social Basics and Everyone is Welcome.
- **Youth Diversity Pledge:** Take this 45- to 60-minute session to be advocates for the Red Cross through education on diversity and inclusion; script, video and agenda are included in packet.
- Become a [Volunteer Intake Processing Center (VIPC) Intake Team Member](#). Open to all youth and young adult volunteers who fulfill the requirements. The VIPC team welcomes new volunteers, monitors applications, reminds them of forms, encourages communication, provides technical support in Volunteer Connection and reports hours to leadership.
- Reach out to your local Volunteer Services team to see how you can support:
  - Are there any volunteers to call and thank, or write birthday/Red Cross anniversary cards to?
  - Are there any Volunteer Connection clean-up projects that you may be able to support remotely?

Fundraising and Development

- Check with your local team to see if you can help with grant research or support any specific fundraising appeals.