Latest from Youth Leaders

Summer is here, and with it, we’re back with another issue of YouthWire! Thank you to all who participated in the first ever Virtual Vaccinate a Village Social Competition. You all raised a total of $3,873! We’d like to give a special shout-out to the two Red Cross Clubs that raised the most money: The Jasper High School Red Cross Club raised $1,045 on GoFundMe and the Alpharetta Red Cross Club raised $600 on Tiltify! The competition may be over, but we can still support this initiative by continuing to educate ourselves and others on the importance of preventative vaccination.

You can continue to volunteer through the summer by getting involved with the Service to the Armed Forces department and following the newly revamped Totes of Hope activity guide. This donation drive event provides essential items for veterans. We encourage you to adapt this activity to fit the needs of your community, so connect with your region today to get started.

Volunteer Spotlight: Joan Purrington

Joan Purrington, second from the left, celebrates alongside the Woodbury High School Red Cross Club after their successful community fundraiser raised $1,500 for Hurricane Dorian relief efforts.

Joan Purrington (Joni) began volunteering with the Red Cross in 1966 as a physical therapist for the adapted aquatics program in St. Paul, Minnesota. She has enjoyed volunteering, and joining Volunteer Services was a natural next step. Joni has volunteered at blood drives, installed smoke alarms, presented for the Pillowcase Project, and has supported the Woodbury Red Cross Club. Joni has also served as the Chair of Red Cross committees on the St. Paul Chapter Board and as a board member on the Minnesota Regional Blood Board.

Joni’s favorite part about the Red Cross is “the opportunity to volunteer for a mission-driven organization that saves lives and supports [the] community alongside volunteers [and staff] of all ages and backgrounds.” Joni is a great youth champion, and we are fortunate to have her.

Staying Prepared for Natural Disasters

Though the Covid-19 pandemic is still going strong, staying prepared for natural disasters is incredibly important during the Summer and Fall. Hurricane and storm seasons are upon us, with wildfire season closely behind, so now is a great time to brush up on how to stay safe during these events. Finding ways to share this information with fellow Red Cross youth and young adult volunteers is an easy, and important, way to stay involved over the summer. Check out the activity guides on RedCrossYouth.org for some ideas.

Try adapting these originally in-person guides to a virtual setting to meet the needs of your community, while practicing social distancing. Be sure to connect with your local
Expand Your Knowledge

Volunteer Connection can be a bit confusing at times. When you have an issue accessing your account or are confused about locating several features, check out this guide or call the hotline 1 (888) 778-7762.

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

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.

UV Safety Month

With social distancing policies, escaping to the outdoors during these summer months sounds even more exciting, but it’s important to take safety precautions while outside. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has named July Ultraviolet (UV) Safety month to spread awareness about the importance of protecting yourself from harmful UV rays. Exposure to UV rays are associated with skin cancer, so it is important to protect the skin during exposure to sunlight. UV radiation is at its highest when and where the sun’s rays are the strongest - around noon on a clear sunny day, especially during the summer months. According to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 5.4 million basal skin cancers are diagnosed annually, and nearly 3.3 million people are diagnosed with squamous cell skin cancers annually, so we should all do our part to take preventive measures.

Thankfully, there are some easy ways to protect against UV rays. You can block UV light with protective clothing, staying in the shade, applying sunscreen, and avoiding artificial sources of UV light. For more information, visit the Environmental Protection Agency’s UV index page.