Latest from Youth Leaders

Next month is National Youth Involvement Month (NYIM)! Taking place every November, this annual initiative encourages and celebrates the involvement and leadership of Red Cross youth and young adult volunteers across the nation. Although the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing, social distancing doesn’t have to mean social disengagement. Therefore, the theme for this year’s NYIM is Connect in Place!

Ready to share your projects and events on a national scale, inspire others, and exchange ideas? Register for NYIM by Friday, October 30th at 11:59 p.m. EDT by filling out an entry form for yourself or for your Red Cross Club (if you are the coordinator). That way, the National Youth Council can easily track your participation, which is key to earning points! You can also choose to participate in a virtual service project competition together with fellow volunteers from your Red Cross division. Any questions can be directed to Candice Lee, the NYIM Lead on the National Youth Council.

Last month, devastating wildfires blazed their way across the West Coast, turning skies orange, scorching the earth, and uprooting hundreds of thousands of people. On the other side of the U.S., back-to-back hurricanes and tropical storms destroyed homes and battered weary communities. The need for your support is now more urgent than ever. No matter how big or small, your contributions will mean the world to the people who have been affected by these disasters. For volunteers ages 18 and up, please consider volunteering to support disaster response and sheltering efforts. For those unable to volunteer, please donate or consider leading a fundraiser to support the Red Cross’s Disaster Relief & Recovery Services—any amount will make a difference.

Embracing Diversity and Inclusion

Humanity is like a tapestry, a masterpiece woven with a rainbow of cultures, beliefs, and identities. This multi-colored background is what gives life and meaning to our stories, whether they be on a local, regional, national, or international scale. Here at the American Red Cross, honoring and showcasing where we come from is central to our goal of creating and maintaining a diverse, high-performing workforce of employees and volunteers who reflect all the communities that we serve.
One way that you can support our mission is by updating your demographic information on your Volunteer Connection account. This is crucial to ensuring that we represent the communities we serve and provide the best volunteer experience possible. We also recommend taking the Diversity, Sensitivity, and Awareness course on EDGE, which gives an in-depth review of the principles of diversity and inclusion and how they are applied at the Red Cross. Please keep in mind that you will need an active Volunteer Connection account to take the training.

Another great resource is the Youth Diversity Pledge. The Youth Diversity Pledge was created to empower youth and young adults to be advocates and leaders for the American Red Cross through education surrounding diversity inclusion issues. If you decide to organize a Youth Diversity Pledge event, remember to tag @American Red Cross Youth Network on Facebook or @americanredcrossyouth on Instagram – we would love to share your story!

Expand Your Knowledge

Did you know that you should test the smoke alarms in your home monthly? If you have battery-powered alarms, change the batteries at least once a year. Replace the whole device every ten years. For more tips on how to test and install a smoke alarm, check out this video!

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.