Latest from Youth Leaders

We’re back with our final YouthWire issue of 2020! As the year draws to a close, the National Youth Council wants to recognize and celebrate all of the incredible youth and young adult volunteers who have adapted to the changing volunteer landscape and supported the Red Cross mission from home. Your unparalleled enthusiasm and efforts have proven that serving our communities is still possible in an online environment.

Speaking of virtual activities, have you checked out the Missing Maps activity guide? It’s a great resource to help lead your own Virtual MAPathon to help map less visible, at-risk or vulnerable communities around the world. If you participate in or host this event, we would love to hear about your experience! Share your stories with us by emailing YouthInvolvement@RedCross.org, posting in the American Red Cross Youth Network Facebook group, or tagging us @americanredcrosseyouth on Instagram.

We hope you take this holiday season to spend time with your family and friends, reflect on the incredible accomplishments you have made, and brainstorm a few goals to accomplish next year.

From the Council to you, Happy Holidays and New Year!

The Seven Fundamental Principles

The seven Fundamental Principles form the foundation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies around the world. Not only do these values provide a framework to guide our actions, but they also unite Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers and employees under a common identity and purpose.

Do you know what the seven Fundamental Principles are? Which Fundamental Principle speaks the most to you? Encourage other Red Crossers and learn more about our Fundamental Principles. More information can be found about each principle by visiting redcross.org.

Expand Your Knowledge

When it comes to leading your Red Cross Club, using your heart is just as important as using your head. This month, check out Developing Emotional Intelligence, a course that explains the value of emotionally intelligent leadership and provides techniques for developing emotional intelligence. To access it, first

Red Cross Club Spotlight: Elmira College

Cade Herold is shown here live streaming Rocket League as part of the Elmira College Red Cross Club’s Live Stream Video Game Fundraiser for Disaster Relief

In September, the Elmira College Red Cross Club took a creative, modern approach to fundraising. Using the Live Stream Gaming activity guide, the Club partnered with Elmira College’s eSports team to host a virtual fundraiser benefiting the Red Cross’ disaster relief efforts. While players streamed their Rocket League, Fortnite, League of Legends, or Overwatch gameplay, Club members thanked donors for their generosity, shared why the Red Cross was important to them, and related how the donations would help those impacted by the recent wildfires and hurricanes. In total, the Elmira College Red Cross Club raised $2000. Participant Cade Herold said, “The players and community showed the world that despite being small, we can make big change. Hopefully that inspires more people to donate.”

For everyone who wants to host a live stream video game fundraiser, Club President Bianca Palese recommends testing the streaming platform and donation link at least one day before to make sure everything works. Advertising the event to the community is also key.
navigate to the Red Cross’s Professional Development Portal. For the User ID, enter the email associated with your Volunteer Connection account. For the password, enter PDportal! – you will immediately be prompted to reset it. You can then search for and launch the course once you are logged in.

Youth (ages 13-17) Now Have Access to The Exchange!

The Exchange is the Red Cross intranet where the organization is able to share internal resources to our Red Cross community. Now, youth under 18 can access The Exchange through their home page on Volunteer Connection. Once you log into your account, visit the Quick Links on the right side of your home page and find the link labeled “The Exchange.” Discuss Exchange resources and tools with your volunteer supervisor today!

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.

Log Your Hours on Volunteer Connection!

The time you spend volunteering is critical to the American Red Cross. It is important that volunteer hours are submitted through Volunteer Connection so that they can be tracked as part of the overall mission.

Help us tell the story of the incredible impact of youth & young adults have by logging your hours today! Use this helpful tip sheet to walk through how to submit your volunteer hours on Volunteer Connection!

“"If you get the support of someone with a lot of followers and direct his/her fans to your fundraiser, you will get a lot of donations.”

This outstanding group of Red Crossers demonstrates how youth can utilize technology to overcome the challenges of COVID-19 in an entertaining and inclusive way. Thank you, Elmira College Red Cross Club!

December Monthly Focus: Holiday Campaign

The holidays are just around the corner, which means that you are probably looking for gifts for your loved ones. Instead of getting them another sweater or tumbler, consider making a financial donation in their honor! Those affected by disasters are often in need of blankets, hot meals, shelter, and infant care supplies. Visit redcross.org/gift to see how you can become a positive impact in someone’s life today!

For other ways to share your holiday spirit and cheer, consider hosting a Disaster Relief: Hope for the Holidays charity stream fundraiser campaign. By taking part in hosting a fundraiser during the month of December, you and your Red Cross Club can earn special prizes based on your total raised!

There are many ways to extend a helping hand to those around you. This year, we encourage you to #GiveWithMeaning.