



Latest from Youth Leaders

Calling all youth and young adult volunteers! As we jump back into the school year, there are many new opportunities to become involved with the Red Cross. Two notable examples are Prepare with Pedro and the Rescue Royale fundraising campaign. Check out the rest of this edition of YouthWire to learn more about both opportunities.

We are looking for young adult volunteers in college to join the [National Collegiate Assembly](#). These outstanding young adult volunteers serve as liaisons for their region, working within their divisions and with the National Youth Council to promote monthly initiatives and increase volunteerism within their colleges and wider communities. To learn more about this program, visit [here](#). If you want to apply, visit [this page](#) to learn how and make sure to complete the steps by 11:59 p.m. EDT on September 15th. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to us at YouthInvolvement@RedCross.org. Good luck!



National Preparedness & Sickle Cell Awareness Month

September is notorious for natural disasters, including hurricanes, wildfires and more. To better prepare your Club and community, there are many preparedness initiatives. One of them is [Prepare with Pedro](#), an initiative that educates K-2 students on how to be prepared and act when any local hazards occur. Contact your local preparedness team to learn more about how to get involved.

The National Youth Council will also be hosting a Virtual Disaster Preparedness Scavenger Hunt on September 19th at 6:30 p.m. EDT, in which you'll compete with other youth to see who is most prepared for emergencies! Register for the event [by following this link](#). In the meantime, be sure to download the free [Red Cross Emergency App](#) to stay updated on alerts within your region, receive expert advice on how to prepare for different emergencies, and have easy access to Red Cross shelters.

September is also Sickle Cell Awareness Month. Sickle cell disease changes the composition of red blood cells and can cause serious complications for patients. The sickle cell gene is more common in certain ethnic groups, specifically those of African and Hispanic descent. While there is no known cure, one of the most integral sickle cell treatments is blood transfusions. The closest blood type match is essential for patients with the disease, and these matches are usually found in people of the same race or similar ethnicity. Encourage your family and friends [to sign up and donate blood](#) at RedCrossBlood.org. To learn more about [sickle cell disease](#) and [the importance of donation types](#), visit these resources.

Youth Volunteer Spotlights: Arthi Venkatakrisnan & Alisha Merchant



Arthi Venkatakrisnan (left) and Alisha Merchant (right) are the Social Engagement Lead and Field Relations Working Group Lead, respectively.


For our September spotlight, we want to introduce you to two of our newest National Youth Council members: Arthi Venkatakrisnan and Alisha Merchant!

Arthi is a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North, hoping to eventually pursue a career in business. She began volunteering in the New Jersey region in August 2017. She's since been involved in community fundraising and blood initiatives as a rising president of her school's Red Cross Club and co-president of her local youth council. In her region, she's also a Lead Advocate for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and has represented New Jersey nationally multiple times at IHL Summits. Outside of youth work, Arthi also serves as a Regional Intake Lead for Volunteer Intake Processing Center where she helps prospective volunteers find their places in the Red Cross. As part of the National Youth Council, she serves as the Social Engagement Lead where she helps manage the council's Instagram and Facebook pages.

Alisha is a freshman at the University of Southern California where she is majoring in Cinema and Media Studies on a pre-medical track. She began volunteering in the New Jersey Region in December 2017. She was inspired by the Red Cross mission to become more involved in volunteerism efforts in her area, including educating attendees about CPR and smoke alarms at Super

The American Red Cross has launched the Sickle Cell Initiative, an enterprise-wide campaign to increase the number of African American blood donors by the end of December 2025. This national effort will help the American Red Cross eliminate the gap in our ability to meet hospital demand and provide the most compatible units for patients with sickle cell disease. Learn more about the initiative and [new toolkit here](#).

Expand Your Knowledge

 Housed on [The Exchange](#), the Cultural Competency Series is a program that aims to educate volunteers about the intersection of the Red Cross and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. In keeping with our monthly theme, we'd like to spotlight the Cultural Competency Series: "[The Realities of Sickle Cell Disease: Hope is on the Horizon](#)", which highlights the role the Red Cross plays in supporting blood transfusions for those affected by sickle cell disease.

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](#)!



[Unsubscribe](#) from YouthWire

Science Saturday (a science fair), hosting Youth Diversity Pledges, Holiday for Heroes Mail, being a Blood Donor Ambassador, and organizing various fundraisers for the different branches of the Red Cross. She reinstated her school's Red Cross Club, alongside being part of her county's youth council as Vice President and the New Jersey Youth Council as Co-president. As part of the National Youth Council, she serves as the Field Relations Working Group Lead where she coordinates relations with different Red Cross regions across the country.

Club in a Box: Everything You Need to Start Off the Year Right!



It's no secret that this year will be difficult to navigate coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is why the National Youth Council is working to ensure that you and your Club/council have everything you need to kick off the year! Start off by checking out our [Club in a Box toolkit](#), as well as other guides at redcrossyouth.org!

September Fundraising Highlights



Want to game for a good cause? Join the Rescue Royale stream-a-thon, which is running through October 16. To join solo or as part of a team, register on the [Rescue Royale Tiltify page](#) and publish a fundraiser campaign to feature on livestream, anytime and as many times as you'd like. With the ability to choose any game you'd like to stream and fundraise around, participants will have chances to earn prizes, win giveaways and even be featured via stream raids by Allied Esports as part of the Rescue Royale Stream-a-thon! Visit [here](#) to join in on the fun!