



What Can I Learn From Community Service?

Volunteering teaches:

- **a sense of responsibility.** By volunteering, you learn what it means to make and keep a commitment. You learn how to be on time for a job, do your best, and be proud of the results. But you also learn that, ultimately, we are responsible for the well-being of our entire community.
- **the knowledge that one person can make a difference.** A wonderful, empowering message for a person is that you are important enough to have an impact on someone or something else.
- **the benefit of sacrifice.** Helping with a task tells us that there are important things other than ourselves and our immediate needs.
- **tolerance.** Working in community service can bring you in touch with people of different backgrounds, abilities, ethnicities, ages, and education and income levels. You will likely find that even the most diverse individuals can be united by common values.
- **job skills.** Community service can help you decide on your future careers. Learning to work as a team member, taking on leadership roles, setting project goals – these are all skills that can be gained by volunteering and will serve you well in any future career.
- **how to fill idle time wisely.** If you aren't involved in traditional after-school activities, community service can be a wonderful alternative.

--KidsHealth, www.kidshealth.org

Top 3 Reasons to Volunteer:

1. Meet new like-minded people
2. Change someone else's life as well as your own.
3. Feel a sense of accomplishment and self fulfillment.

--United Way

Adapted from the West Virginia Department of Education Links Curriculum lesson of the same name, June 2012. <http://wvde.state.wv.us/counselors/links/about.html>