

The Truth About Youth Volunteers

Youth like to help others, and there are plenty of surveys and statistics that show teen volunteer rates continue to increase. Check out some of these numbers from a recent survey in the U.S.:

Majority rules

Approximately 15.5 million youth – 55 percent of young people ages 12 to 18 – volunteer each year. This rate is close to double that of adult volunteerism, with a rate of 29 percent.

More than a billion hours served

Youth dedicate more than 1.3 billion hours to community service each year. Most individuals annually set aside almost 30 hours per year to volunteering.

Location, location, location

18 percent of youth volunteer through school-based groups, and 12 percent volunteer through youth leadership organizations.

Youth want to volunteer!

Only 5 percent of youth say they volunteer because their school requires it.

Like parent, like child

Teens from families in which at least one parent volunteers are almost twice as likely to volunteer as those with no family members who volunteer. In families where both parents and siblings volunteer, 86 percent of youth also volunteer and 47 percent volunteer on a regular basis.

Volunteering makes the grade!

Youth who report succeeding in classes are more likely to volunteer than students with lower academic performance levels.

Source: Corporation for National and Community Service, 2005 survey of U.S. youth ages 12 to 18

