

# Tips for Volunteering

## TIPS FOR YOUTH WHO WANT TO VOLUNTEER

1. Take the lead! Is there an issue in your community that you would like to see addressed? If you're not sure where to begin, ask a parent, teacher, or community leader to help you to get started. And then see how you *can* make a difference.

2. Get your friends involved and meet new people. Social activities are a great way to boost your confidence, and involvement with local community groups is a great means to do that.

3. Find your inner hero. Do you dream of being a doctor or a fire fighter? Check out opportunities at local hospitals and fire departments to get a glimpse of what community heroes are doing.

4. Ask your school about group opportunities. Participate in a service-learning project with your class and see how service and education go hand-in-hand.

5. Talk with your parents, friends, teachers, and other adults about your volunteer activities. Not only will you be encouraging them to serve, you will have the chance to reflect upon how your activities change you and your community.

6. Volunteer with your family. Get your family involved in one of the National Days of Service, such as Make a Difference Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and spend a day painting murals or cleaning your neighborhood park. Check out [www.mlkday.gov](http://www.mlkday.gov) for more information.