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HOW NYC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

This special edition of the VRC “Caring and Connecting” newsletter is dedicated to YOU and the thousands of New York teens who volunteer their time and talents to making our city a great place to live, study, and work.

Here you’ll find up-to-date volunteer opportunities that are available now or will be available this summer. They include both virtual and on-site jobs with a spectrum of organizations.

As the city reopens, nonprofits are once again eager to tap the powerful engine of youth volunteers. They need your help! Whatever your skills, schedules, and passions, we’re sure you’ll find a great match for yourself - and make an important contribution to others.

Zelda Warner
Event Coordinator
Volunteer Referral Center
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Battery Dance



The Battery Dance Festival is New York City's longest-running, free public dance festival. Each year, the Festival draws a combined audience of over 12,000 in-person and over 35,000 virtual viewers.

Volunteer Opportunities: We will need around 10 volunteers for the in-person performances, August 13-20. Responsibilities will include setting up and striking chairs at the beginning and end of the day, selling merchandise, managing crowd flow and social distancing, and monitoring VIP sections.

Minimum Age: 16

Other Requirements: Vaccination against COVID-19 is required

How to Apply: Email gabrielle@batterydance.org

Website: batterydance.org

Contact: Gabrielle Niederhoffer,
gabrielle@batterydance.org
(212-219-3910)

Dancing Dreams



Dancing Dreams is a nonprofit organization with the mission of providing dance classes and performance opportunities for children with physical challenges. Boys and girls from 3-18 years old are taught by pediatric physical therapists who adapt all activities to meet the unique needs of each dancer.

Volunteer Opportunities: Student volunteers are the backbone of the program and turn the dancers' dreams into reality by working one-on-one with a dancer at weekly class and at springtime performance.

Minimum Age: 13

Other Requirements: All volunteers are enrolled in the Teen Leadership Program which is geared for highly-motivated and responsible students who are able to commit at least one hour of their time each week from September, 2022 through May, 2023.

Class Schedule: Monday afternoons: Upper East Side (Manhattan), Monday afternoons: Plainview (Long Island), Thursday afternoons, Bayside (Queens)

How to Apply: Applications will be released around mid-late May. Email: sharon@dancingdreams.org

Website: dancingdreams.org

Contact: Sharon Alvarez, Leadership/Volunteer Coordinator sharon@dancingdreams.org
516-659-9461

American Red Cross Greater New York Region



The American Red Cross aims to alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies through community preparedness including training in Fire Safety, CPR, and First Aid. We provide services for disaster relief and support for military service families.

Volunteer Activities: Join or start a Red Cross club at your school. We have developed Activity Guides that outline things your club can do to help in areas such as: Blood Services, Preparedness, Health and Safety, Disaster Response, International Services, Service to Armed Forces and Fund Raising.

Minimum Age: 16

Other Requirements: Time commitment varies according to club activities. To find out more, visit: redcrossyouth.org

How To Apply: email: Halle Bradshaw at halle.bradshaw@redcross.org

Website: www.redcross.org

Contact: Halle Bradshaw at halle.bradshaw@redcross.org

Hunger Free America



Hunger Free America is a nonprofit organization that fights hunger through **advocacy and direct service**. We work to ensure that all people have access to sufficient, affordable, nutritious and convenient food (food security), and we work toward policy based, long term solutions.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Phone Banking to increase Food Access: Volunteers use digital outreach strategy to reach community members and connect them to local food resources.
- Food Resources Data Verification: Volunteers place calls to emergency food sites to verify their information to ensure that information about their services are correct and up to date on our National Database.
- Canvassing/Community Outreach: Volunteers, working in a group, distribute flyers in selected neighborhoods.
- Student for HFA/Student Ambassadors: Student leaders mobilize other students to help increase awareness and reduce food insecurity in their own schools and communities.

Minimum Age: 14 for Data Verification, 16 for Phone Banking, all high school students for Canvassing. There is a waiver form for ages 18 and below.

Other Requirements: Orientation: 20-30 Minutes for Canvassing, 2 Hours for Data Verification.

How to Apply: email volunteer@hungerfreeamerica.org or go to <https://hungervolunteer.volunteerhub.com/events/search?q=canvassing> where you can sign up for canvassing shifts, dates are available throughout the summer.

You can sign up for Food Resources Data Verification shifts at:
<https://hungervolunteer.volunteerhub.com/events/search?q=data+verification>.

Website: www.hungerfreeamerica.org

Contact: **Stephanie Wu Winter** swinter@hungerfreeamerica.org

Wildlife Conservation Center



The Discovery Guide Program is an educational volunteer program at all 5 Wildlife Conservation Society sites in New York City: **Bronx Zoo, Central Park Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo, Queens Zoo,** and the **New York Aquarium.** Its mission is to inspire a diverse and inclusive movement of conservation advocates.

Volunteer Opportunities: Engage zoo and aquarium visitors in activities throughout the sites, assist with educational programs and support wildlife and the environment through WCS campaigns.

Minimum Age: 14

Other Requirements: The application deadline is **May 1.** The program runs from July 1-Sept.5. Training takes place on weekends in June, attendance is compulsory. Volunteers are required to work 2 shifts per week.

How to Apply: There is a common application for all the sites. The application can be found at bronxzoo.com/volunteer or on the website of any of the other members of the program.

Contact: The volunteer link on any of the 5 websites.

South Street Seaport Museum



The South Street Seaport Museum preserves and interprets the origins and growth of New York City as a world port, a place where goods, labor, and cultures are exchanged through their interaction with commerce.

Volunteer Activities: Volunteers work to restore and maintain our fleet of historic vessels while learning and preserving traditional maritime skills. Work includes cleaning and organizing, repairing, painting, general maintenance. Volunteers also have the chance to participate in our summer sailing program.

Minimum Age: 16. If under 18, parent/guardian's written permission is required.

Other Requirements: No skills are required but volunteers must be able and willing to work in dirty environments and lift heavy objects. There is an onsite onboarding/ orientation and training.

How to Apply: Fill out application at southstreetseaportmuseum.org/volunteer
For more information email, volunteercoordinator@seany.org

Website: southstreetseaportmuseum.org

Contact: Nick Lockyer, Volunteer Program Coordinator volunteercoordinator@seany.org.

The National September 11 Memorial and Museum



The mission of the 9/11 Memorial and Museum located at the World Trade Center site, is to bear solemn witness to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. The site honors the nearly 3,000 victims of these attacks and all those who risked their lives to save others.

Volunteer Opportunities: *Summer Retail Greeter.* Assists by providing an informative, meaningful, and quality visitor experience. The Greeter welcomes visitors into the Museum Store and at the Outdoor Retail Information Carts, provides them with helpful information regarding products and their connection to the Museum, answers questions, concerns and complaints, and helps with stocking the store.

Minimum Age: 16

Other Requirements: Two four-hour shifts per week are recommended for the summer, actual start and finish dates are flexible, 2-3 months.

Background Check.

Personable and polite, able to interact well with a wide range of people and personalities within and outside the 9/11 Memorial and Museum.

How to Apply: Visit www.911memorial.org/volunteer and complete an application form.

Website: www.911memorial.org/volunteer

Contact: Lindsay Watts volunteer@911memorial.org

Dorot



DOROT is a nonprofit organization addressing the challenges of an aging population. We seek to alleviate social isolation by bringing the generations together through mutually beneficial programming.

Volunteer Opportunities: Through one of our four summer teen internship programs, you can develop leadership skills and engage in meaningful programs with older adults and you can earn over 112 community service hours. Intergenerational activities include discussion groups, home visits, creative arts and tech assistance.

Minimum Age: Interns must be rising sophomores, juniors or seniors in high school.

Other Requirements: There are four internship program options, four weeks each, running Monday-Thursday 10AM to 4:30 PM.

Session 1: Manhattan Jewish Summer Teen Internship Program (June 27-July 21)*

Session 2: Manhattan Summer Teen Internship Program (July 26-August 18)

Jewish Summer Teen Internship Program at the Riverdale Y (July 25-August 18)*

Summer Teen Internship Program at Shorefront Y Brighton Beach (July 26-Aug. 18)

*For the Jewish programs DOROT welcomes teens who identify as Jewish, or who have a parent or grandparent who identifies as Jewish

Interns must participate in a group interview over Zoom.

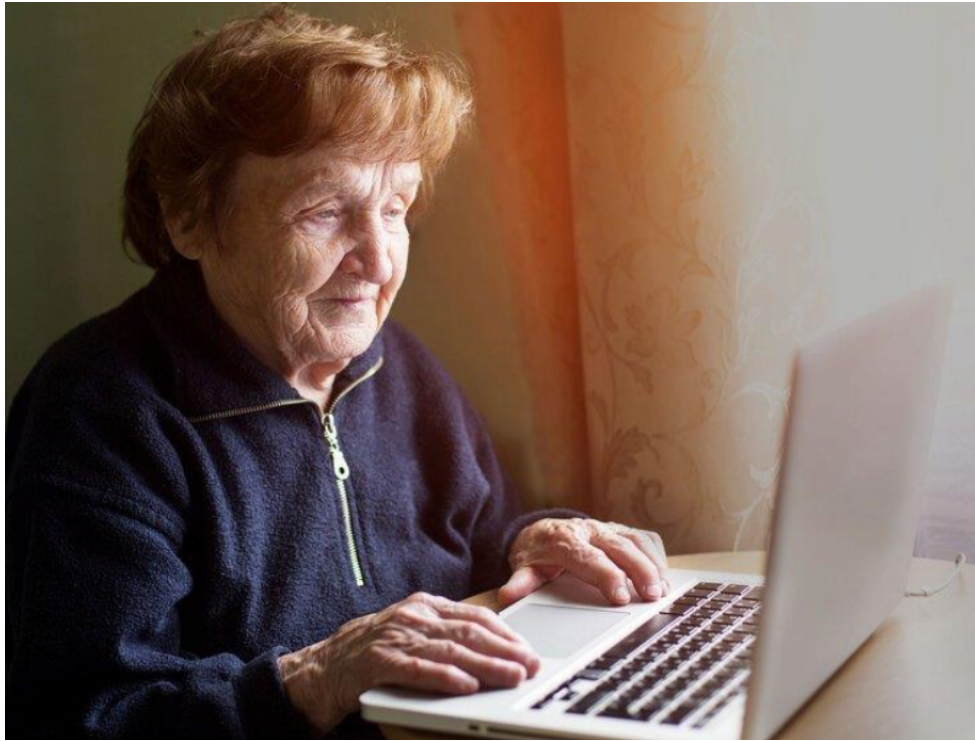
Interns must be able to commute to their assigned location in Manhattan, Riverdale or Brighton Beach.

How to Apply: <https://dorotusa.iotform.com/213084315860149?>

Website: <https://dorotusa.org/volunteer/high-school-college-internships/summer-teen-internship-program>

Contact: Elijah Wong, ewong@dorotusa.org, 917-441-3714

Selfhelp Community Services – Virtual Senior Center



Selfhelp is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to maintaining the independence and dignity of seniors and at-risk populations through a spectrum of housing, home healthcare and social services. The **Virtual Senior Center Program** allows homebound and active older adults 60+ to attend interactive one-hour classes on topics chosen by the Volunteer Facilitator during the day, evening or weekend.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer Facilitator: lead a one-hour interactive virtual class on a topic of your choice for Seniors 60+, examples: Art, Music Appreciation, History, Travel, Food, Wellness, Exercise, Brain Games, etc. Classes are scheduled on flexible, recurring schedules and held in English, Russian or Mandarin

Minimum Age: 17

Other Requirements: Flexible commitment but at least 6 classes. Ability and interest in interacting with Older Adults, interest in sharing a topic that you are knowledgeable about, average computer skills, able to manage and lead a class.

How to Apply: Contact Carmella Chessen at cchessen@selfhelp.net with a note including area of interests and some info on your background. Application forms, brief phone intro and one hour training will follow.

Website: <http://vscm.selfhelp.net>

Contact: Carmella Chessen cchessen@selfhelp.net 718-559-4378
Prefer initial contact via email.

Reading Partners



Reading is the foundation for learning and success in life. Reading Partners has been a part of the New York educational community since 2011 when we first began our program of one-on-one tutoring, helping kids master basic reading skills and empowering them to succeed in reading and in life.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers work one-on-one with the same K-4th grade student for a minimum of one hour per week for a semester (in-person or virtually). Volunteers follow a structured curriculum with step-by-step instructions and materials.

Minimum Age: 14

Other Requirements: Volunteers must complete a virtual tutor orientation and sign our tutor code of conduct. If you are 18 or older a background check, in-person, in Brooklyn is required.

How to Apply: Sign up at <https://readingpartners.org/volunteer-new-york-city/>

Website: <https://readingpartners.org>

Contact: Clara Monk clara.monk@readingpartners.org

East Harlem Tutorial Program



East Harlem Tutorial Program offers students an **anti-racist and equitable learning collective** to exercise their brilliance. Our scholars build the academic skills, strength of character and emotional well-being to thrive in school and lead in their communities.

Volunteer Opportunities: EHTP seeks passionate volunteers to work with elementary and middle school students during our summer program. Our summer program runs Monday through Friday, July 5-July 29, volunteers play a huge role in making the summer successful.

Minimum Age: 16

Other Requirements: Criminal Background check, COVID-19 Vaccination and Medical Check. Sessions are 7:45-12:15 and/or 12:00-4:00. Volunteers must commit to 4 full days or 5 mornings or 5 afternoons.

How to Apply: apply at <http://bttr.im/ubhw2>

Website: ehtp.org/volunteer

Contact: Jaime Rodriguez, jarodriguez@ehtp.org, (212) 831-0650 ext.129

New Alternatives for Children



New Alternatives for Children is a child welfare agency that provides foster care, adoption and prevention services to children with special needs. We are dedicated to nurturing the potential of every child and teen in addition to improving the health and well-being of families who live at or below the poverty line.

Volunteer Opportunities: Students have many options to engage with NAC children by creating an instructional video or holding a School Supplies Drive for essential educational needs. ***Story (Any) Time:*** create a video recording reading a story in English or Spanish showing pictures, using silly voices, etc; ***Let's Get Moving:*** create exercise, dance and yoga videos to help elementary kids get moving; ***School Supplies Drive:*** organize a drive for Summer Reading Kits, Back to School Supplies

Minimum Age: 16

Other Requirements: ***Submitting videos:*** NAC children and youth are accessing the videos using Google Classroom so the easiest way for them to upload content is through Google Drive. ***School Supplies Drive:*** You will be matched with a group of NAC kids who are in need of school supplies and provided with a list of what is needed most.

How to Apply: email to volunteers@nackidscan.org stating your interest and requesting specific instructions.

Website: www.NacKidsCan.org

Contact: Nichole Letizia, Assistant Director of Volunteers, Student Internships & Community Relations. Email: volunteers@nackidscan.org

Goddard Riverside/Star Learning



Star Learning Center, a program of Goddard Riverside Community Center, provides one-to-one tutoring and educational advocacy to underserved students from across the city.

Volunteer Opportunities: Star is looking for volunteers interested in working with students from 2nd to 12th grade. Tutors work with the **same student on the same day and time** for the duration of the program

Minimum Age: Star accepts applications from 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students but prioritizes juniors and seniors.

Other Requirements: Each tutor must be able to commit a two-hour block of time once a week to be matched with a student. Tutoring takes place Monday through Friday.

All tutors complete an orientation process prior to starting with their students.

How to Apply: For more information, as well as the links to apply to our summer and school year programs, please visit our website. Applications to volunteer for the summer 2022 program will be available on our website **at the end of May**. Check our website at the **end of August** for applications for the 2022-23 school year program.

Website: <https://goddard.org/programs/children-and-youth/starlearningcenter/>.

Contact: Jolie Kapelus, Program Associate Director - jkapelus@goddard.org

Need More Ideas?

The Volunteer Referral Center has been helping New Yorkers of all ages find great volunteer opportunities for 33 years. With over 300 partner agencies, VRC will guide you to a perfect match.

To schedule a free appointment call 212-889-4805 or sign up at <http://volunteer-referral.com/volunteer-opportunities-2/>

Click here <https://volunteer-referral.com/media-press-room/> to check out our Caring & Connecting During COVID-19 newsletters for more volunteer opportunities.

We celebrate National Volunteer Week April 17-23, 2022 and thank all volunteers of all ages



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