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This list of community service and engagement opportunities for teen volunteers is intended to give students some inspiration and a starting point for getting involved in their community. Students and their families should further investigate whether an opportunity might be a good fit for the student's schedule, transportation needs, age, and personal abilities and interests. Some require a competitive application process, perhaps with letters of reference, an interview and training, while others just require an online application. Some of these organizations recruit volunteers just once a year in the fall or spring, so look for application deadlines. We remind our WKHS teen volunteers to treat these opportunities as they would approach a job - be on time, dress appropriately, be interested and friendly, seek help when needed, and work hard to accomplish the assigned task, without complaint. We hope that our students learn something new and expand their understanding about our community through their volunteer experiences!







If there is a community engagement opportunity that you know about that is not included on this list, please email WKHS Social Studies teacher Lauren Glaros, and let her know about it! lglaros@wscloud.org







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| <p>One-Time Volunteer Opportunities (Each school year, our Worthington elementary schools and community organizations will look for volunteers to serve at one-time events).</p> | <p><i>Nothing here for now, but check back soon!</i></p> | |
| <p>Bloom Free Store</p>  | <p>Bloom exists to aid in the flourishing of families with young children by providing basic needs and connecting them with supportive community and resources, such as diapers, baby care and safety items, and educational toys.</p> | <p>For more info</p> |
| <p>Canine Collective</p>  | <p>Canine Collective's mission is to provide rescued dogs another chance to find their forever homes. They rescue from high kill shelters, hoarding situations, and from families in crisis. Volunteers under 18 can help at special adoption events.</p> | <p>For more info</p> |
| <p>Central Ohio Metro Parks</p>  | <p>Metro Parks has a dedicated team of more than 750 volunteers who helps to maintain 19 parks in central Ohio. Volunteers assist with horticulture at Inniswood Gardens, nature centers, resource management, Slate Run Farm, and preserving trails and greenways.</p> | <p>For more info</p> <p>Volunteer Application</p> |
| <p>CHA Animal Shelter</p>  | <p>Nonprofit animal shelter that provides safe, temporary care for cat and dogs and provides medical care for the animals.. Volunteers are trained to care for the animals, help with shelter maintenance and assist with potential adopters.</p> | <p>For more info</p> |

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| <p>Colony Cats</p>  | <p>Colony Cats is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization whose primary mission is to address cat overpopulation in central Ohio through public awareness and spay/neuter efforts. Volunteers spend time caring for cats to improve the lives of the homeless cats.</p> | <p>For more info</p> |
| <p>Columbus Food Rescue</p>  | <p>Columbus Food Rescue is a program of Local Matters that fights food waste and food inequity by rescuing excess foods and re-distributing it to shelters, agencies, and other community groups. Volunteers sign up to rescue and transport excess food, so that it can be consumed by those who need it.</p> | <p>For more info</p> |
| <p>Columbus Humane Society</p>  | <p>The Columbus Humane Society was created in 1883 to fight animal cruelty, advocate for animals, and provide for the welfare of animals. CAHS serves as an adoption center and accepts volunteers to help care for the animals at their facility. Volunteers can work with dogs, cats, rabbits, and in other jobs as CAHS. There is an opportunity for one-time group volunteering. For an on-going experience, volunteers need to complete a lengthy class to prepare to work with the animals.</p> | <p>For more info</p> |
| <p>Columbus Zoo</p>  | <p>Our nationally-recognized zoo has over 20 jobs around the zoo for teen volunteers. Direct animal contact is minimal for teens, but there is still plenty for volunteers to do with zoo visitors. The deadline for the application to volunteer is due each March - check back at the beginning of each year.</p> | <p>For more info</p> |
| <p>Common Ground Free Store</p>  | <p>The Common Ground Free Store in Delaware, Ohio is a place where everything is free - clothing, shoes, books, toys, household items and meals. Volunteers run the store, serve food or take in donations each day the store is open.</p> | <p>For more info</p> <p>Volunteer Application</p> |
| <p>COSI</p>  | <p>COSI is one the nation's leading science centers and has served over 33 million visitors since it opened in 1964. Teen volunteers can help on the floors with exhibits, in the KidsSpace area and in guest services. They offer a variety of volunteer opportunities, including internships to earn college credit.</p> | <p>For more info</p> <p>Volunteer Application</p> |
| <p>Cozy Cat Cottage</p>  | <p>A non-profit Adoption Center organization located in Powell that provides refuge, aid and care for abandoned, injured, abused or lost cats and kittens. There is a wide variety of activities for teen volunteers, including working with the kittens and cats.</p> | <p>For more info</p> |
| <p>Do Something</p> | <p>Get inspired by other youth-led initiatives and bring your own idea to the WKHS community!</p> | <p>Do Something</p> |

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| <p>Franklin Park Conservatory</p>  | <p>Franklin Park Conservatory offers award-winning gardens and art exhibits for our community. Volunteers can help garden, as exhibit guides, and with educational programs.</p> | <p>For more info</p> <p>Volunteer Application</p> |
| <p>Franklinton Farms</p>  | <p>Fresh-grown and harvested produce at an urban non-profit farm near downtown Columbus that is easily accessible and low-cost for Franklinton neighbors. Volunteers can work on special educational projects or directly in the gardens.</p> | <p>For more info</p> <p>Volunteer Form</p> |
| <p>Furniture Bank of Central Ohio</p>  | <p>The mission of the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio is to reduce the impact of poverty by providing furniture to central Ohio families and individuals struggling with severe life challenges. Volunteers can help move, organize and assemble furniture, restore and repair donated items, engage in special volunteer events, and work with clients. This is a great opportunity for those who want to share their physical strength and talents!</p> | <p>For more info</p> |
| <p>Habitat for Humanity</p>  | <p>Volunteers in your community and all over the world partner with Habitat to build or improve a place that low-income families can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Volunteers get trained and sign up for shifts on-line to work on home construction sites and at the Habitat Re-Store location.</p> | <p>For more info</p> <p>Volunteer Hub</p> |
| <p>Humane Society of Delaware County</p>  | <p>The Humane Society of Delaware County fights animal cruelty and is an adoption center and community resource for pet-owners. Volunteers will be trained to work with cats and dogs, or might work on a special task.</p> | <p>For more info</p> |
| <p>Leadership Worthington</p>  | <p>Youth participants who participate with Leadership Worthington have the opportunity to increase leadership skills within the community, workplace, schools, and in churches. Volunteers will gain a greater knowledge of the Worthington area, its organizations and its current leaders as they carry out service projects. LW plans Service Day every year, which is always held the first Saturday in May, and sends volunteers to help with projects in the community.</p> | <p>For more info</p> |
| <p>LifeTown Columbus</p> | <p>LifeTown Columbus is a realistic, indoor city designed specifically for children with special needs to have fun while practicing important life skills through role-play.</p> | <p>For more info</p> |

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|  | <p>Volunteering sessions occur from 9:30-noon on school days, so this wouldn't be a regular volunteer activity, but perhaps an experience to have once or a few times. Volunteers role-play as shopkeepers and other community members to provide students with a real-world experience.</p> | |
| <p>Mid-Ohio Food Bank</p>  | <p>Mid-Ohio Foodbank in Grove City distributed about 70 million pounds of food last year, half of which was fresh. The bank is able to provide about 155,000 everyday to those central Ohioans who need them, often . Volunteers sort, label, re-pack, and prepare food to be distributed to other pantries throughout the area. This volunteer work is typically very physical in nature.</p> | <p>For more info Volunteer Hub</p> |
| <p>Miracle League</p>  | <p>Miracle League of Central Ohio was formed in 2005 with the mission of raising funds to build a unique baseball field for athletes with mental and physical challenges in the Central Ohio area.</p> | <p>For more info</p> |
| <p>Nationwide Children's Hospital</p>  | <p>Nationwide Children's Hospital is one of the top-rated pediatric hospitals in the country. Volunteers can spend time weekly in the sibling clubhouse, information desk, as part of the Reach Out and Read Program, and at Close to Home centers. This volunteer application opens and closes as needed, so check back frequently if you want to catch a volunteer opportunity!</p> | <p>For more info</p> |
| <p>National Archives</p>  | <p>A great service activity to work on from your home, donate your time as a Citizen Archivist! Through this website, you can transcribe military pension files for the Revolutionary War so that we can record history. Read this news story to find out more about the opportunity.</p> | <p>For more info</p> |
| <p>Riverside Methodist Hospital or Dublin Methodist Hospital</p>  | <p>Riverside is recognized locally, regionally and nationally for quality healthcare and is consistently ranked one of the nation's best hospitals. Volunteers can work at the information desk, on the patient floors, help with patient discharges, and many more duties. Teen volunteers must be 15 years old and meet a few immunization requirements. Dublin Methodist Hospital also seeks volunteers to perform similar tasks.</p> | <p>For more info Specific Opportunities</p> |
| <p>Ohio Wildlife Center</p>  | <p>Seeds of Awareness, Respect and Stewardship (SOARS) is a program for teens that can't wait to learn about wildlife. SOARS volunteers assist education staff with summer wildlife day camp activities, camper supervision and the animal husbandry duties associated with camp activities.</p> | <p>For more info Youth Outreach Projects</p> |

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| | Specifically, they offer teens Craft and Community Outreach project opportunities. | |
| <p>Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio</p>  | Ronald McDonald House provides housing for families who have family members receiving medical treatment in central Ohio. Our central Ohio Ronald McDonald House is the largest in the world, entirely run by volunteers, and provides a variety of services and comforts for families so that they can be near their family members who are in the hospital. There are MANY volunteer opportunities here, but teen volunteers are encouraged to work with the Welcome Blanket program and Baking program. All students under age 18 who volunteer at the facility must be accompanied by an adult. | For more info |
| <p>Shane Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship</p>  | Located at Willow Farm in Centerburg, Ohio, The Shane Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities through innovative equestrian activities. Volunteers need to be 14 years old, and be trained to help riders with disabilities gain physical strength and confidence while horseback riding. | For more info |
| <p>Stratford Ecological Center</p>  | Stratford is a nonprofit educational organic farm and nature preserve that provides a wide variety of programs. Volunteers can help with children's programs, as a guide, or working on the farm. | For more info Volunteer Application |
| <p>Volunteer Match</p>  | Look for more community engagement opportunities around Columbus using Volunteer Match. | Volunteer Match |
| <p>WKHS Club: Crafting for Charity</p>  | Crafting for Charity is a student-initiated club created to teach students how to knit and crochet, and then donate crafted items such as hats, scarves, and gloves to those in need. The club meets regularly to craft together, but members also craft on their own. | Not currently running - find a teacher advisor and start it up again! |
| <p>WKHS Club: Environmental Club</p>  | Eco-wise is a student club focused on spreading awareness about environmental and animal rights issues. Students learn more about these issues and engage in community service projects, such as The Thirst Project, which raises funds to build wells in communities that lack clean drinking water. | For more info, email Mrs. Hundertpfund |

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| <p>WKHS Club: Interact</p>  | <p>Interact is a high school club that is connected with Rotary (an adult-based community group) and focuses on helping students develop and run service projects at school and in their community. Volunteers meet regularly to work on smaller projects, but also plan and organize larger events.</p> | <p>For more info, email Mr. Balogh.</p> |
| <p>WKHS Club: Link Crew</p>  | <p>Link Crew is a group of junior and senior students who are trained and organized to welcome our 9th grade class to school each year. Volunteers are assigned a partner to work with and oversee a group of 8-10 freshmen to lead them through activities, learn about the school, answer questions, and give a friendly, positive welcome to our new students. Applications are accepted each spring and there is Link Crew training before school begins in August to prepare for the first day of school.</p> | <p>For more info, talk to Mr. Wood or Mrs. Himmel.</p> |
| <p>WKHS Club REACH Buddies</p>  | <p>REACH students work with WK students who have disabilities and are educated in our Daily Living Skills room. Volunteers spend time with special-needs students regularly and also plan special events to get to know each other in a fun, social setting. The club also organizes Disability Awareness Week every year.</p> | <p>For more info, email Mrs. DelRosso or Mr. Morlan</p> |
| <p>WKHS: Wolves for Cubs</p>  | <p>WK students are assigned to mentor an elementary student and help them with their social skills and emotional needs. Volunteers travel to Worthington elementary schools during an option period to volunteer to read with students.</p> | <p>Look for applications as soon as the new school year begins. They are typically due by early September.</p> |
| <p>Worthington Libraries</p>  | <p>Worthington Libraries serve as a valuable resource for our community and are some of the best in the country! Volunteers can assist with special library events, tutor students in the Homework Help Center, sort materials, prepare materials for children's events, and a variety of other tasks.</p> | <p>For more info</p> |
| <p>Worthington PTA Council</p>  | <p>The Worthington PTA Council, established in 1965, is comprised of parent groups from almost all schools within Worthington school district. There are 18 members, representing Worthington area schools. Upcoming one-time volunteer opportunities will be posted in the first row of this document.</p> | <p>For questions, email PTA Council President at: ptacpresident@yahoo.com</p> |
| <p>Worthington Resource Pantry</p> | <p>Provides food and other resources to low-income families in need. Volunteers stock the pantry and help shoppers select their food choices.</p> | <p>For more info</p> |



Worthington Special Olympics



Worthington Special Olympics offers volunteer opportunities for coaching and assisting athletes with disabilities in a variety of sports, including: track & field, swimming, basketball, bowling, gymnastics, powerlifting, and soccer.

[For more info](#)

YMCA Columbus



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

An inclusive organization of men, women and children joined together by a shared commitment to nurturing the potential of kids, promoting healthy living and fostering a sense of social responsibility. Volunteers can spend their time in several locations working with children and helping families.

[For more info](#)