

HINTS for Volunteering

People decide to volunteer for a variety of reasons: to help the less fortunate, to meet new people, to make a difference in the community, to learn new skills, to gain experience for college applications/resumes, to have fun....there are as many reasons to volunteer as there are people volunteering. The following questions may help you in finding a volunteer opportunity that is right for you.

- ✓ Would you like to volunteer with an organization that works with a specific population: children, seniors, animals, the disabled, the abused, the ill?
- ✓ Is there a specific job you'd like to do? Tutor children or adults learning English? Mentor youth or teens? Provide a caring voice for a domestic violence or suicide prevention hotline? Feed the hungry? Help at special events like the Volvo Race or fundraising events? Clean up a park or the Bay? Be a tour guide or docent? Provide foster care for stray cats or kittens?
- ✓ Do you want to provide direct service by working directly with people in need? Would you prefer to work behind-the-scenes assisting with office tasks, data entry, program development, fund raising, or web page design?
- ✓ How much time can you commit? Are you looking for short or one time projects such as tree planting, painting, or special events? Or would you rather make a long term commitment to be a mentor, tutor, or hotline volunteer?
- ✓ Would you like to volunteer with your family, friends, or children? The Volunteer Center For Anne Arundel County provides one-time volunteer events for groups and individuals during the weekdays and weekends. Projects include Earth Day clean up, archeology digs, garden preparation and food and clothing drives for the needy.
- ✓ Are you interested in volunteering with your co-workers? The Volunteer Center For Anne Arundel County can assist your company in finding a diverse and tailored selection of volunteering opportunities that meet your co-workers' interests.

Now that you have an idea of what you'd like to do, find the right opportunity for you.

Talk to a few organizations that have opportunities that meet your interests. In addition to discussing their volunteer opportunities, also ask them about what they do, who they serve and what their mission is. Make sure you are comfortable with the organization as a whole as well as your specific volunteer duties. Find out how your volunteer work contributes to their mission and goals. Remember, in addition to the organization interviewing you, you should be interviewing the organization. Look around until you find an organization that you like that has a volunteer opportunity you feel is just right for you.

✓ Volunteer Center For Anne Arundel County
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