

# Volunteer Categories

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## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: PAWS**

Volunteers collect small bags of dog and cat food and deliver the pet food to the homes of senior pet owners who may find it financially difficult to adequately feed themselves and their four legged friends.

Volunteers plan, host and collect food from various donation drives. They maintain the route of senior citizens referred through county and home health agencies, keep track of each home's pet details, and schedule the volunteer route deliveries each month.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: BIG BREATH AND BARK**

Big Breath and Bark raises funds and awareness to provide all fire emergency vehicles with pet snout shaped oxygen masks.

Volunteers establish and maintain the relationships with the fire station personnel, drum up media interest through press releases and interviews, research the kind of masks needed, what sizes and where they can be bought, coordinate the plaques that go in the stations with donors' pet memorials, etc.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: PETS IN EMERGENCIES HANDBOOK**

Volunteers research and publish a disaster resource guide for pet owners.

Volunteers research and publish a guide of local "pet friendly" facilities in the event of fire, flood, or other disaster. Volunteers also train youth in interviewing, reporting, and/or printing skills.

### **PROJECT EXAMPLE: EMERGENCY PET SHELTER**

Volunteers open and operate a pet shelter for emergency workers and registered senior citizens and “at risk” residents (who may refuse to evacuate if pets cannot accompany them).

Volunteers manage a pet shelter from registration, scheduling, cleaning, transportation methods of the animals, care on site, and satisfaction surveys among the human recipients of the service.

### **PROJECT EXAMPLE: VRC**

A VRC (Volunteer Reception Center) becomes a headquarters for spontaneous volunteers in post disaster situations.

Volunteers set up procedures, host drills, and deploy in the aftermath of disasters to handle unaffiliated volunteers. Usually done in collaboration with or at least training by local Emergency Management officials or leaders.

### **PROJECT EXAMPLE: PREPAREDNESS TRAININGS**

This program pays the training fees for registered volunteers on a variety of topics, so they are better able to respond during times of disaster.

Volunteers are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of community trainings, and the agency covers their fees, whenever possible. Volunteers participate in drills for emergency management, CERT, conflict resolution – anything that appeals to and better prepares a volunteer to serve their community.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: YOUTH SERVICE LEARNING COUNCIL**

A grant making group comprised entirely of youth volunteers, established to promote more service-learning, increase community issue and asset awareness, and give experiences in policymaking, civic responsibility and fiscal management.

Youth volunteers hold monthly meetings to consider submitted community grant proposals and interview the community members seeking their funding. Young volunteers get experience in evaluating, discussing and scoring grants for the real projects various agencies propose. The council's goal is to get service-learning included in community projects, and hopeful recipients need to demonstrate that they can utilize youth in projects that will expand volunteers' knowledge and skills.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: TRAILBLAZERS**

Middle school youth paired with college students, and overseen by local rangers create and maintain new trails and paths in the national forests.

Primarily a service-learning project, volunteers serve as educators, environmental specialists, Master Gardeners, equipment trainers and operators, to create safe trails and paths for families to enjoy. This can be expanded to include wildlife preserves, community gardens and even playgrounds – the idea is to connect established and aspiring environmentalists in volunteer projects in your area.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: BOOKS AND BIRTHDAYS**

Books and Birthdays is a volunteer initiative promoting literacy.

Volunteers coordinate with the school and teachers to make monthly visits to classrooms, where each classmate who has a birthday that month is given a new book. During the visit, volunteers read each new book to the class, and cupcakes or small snacks are provided.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: TIDY TOMBSTONES**

Tidy Tombstones is a Cemetery Mapping and Restoration project

Volunteers map, landscape and restore a local indigent cemetery for the purposes of identifying where residents are laid to rest. Some draw or photograph the gravestones to be put into a searchable online database. Others develop and maintain a virtual website of the cemetery. Those interested in landscaping and restoration work will repair vandalized and washed away headstones, etc.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: CAUTION ZONE**

An environmental program established to research and to circulate information about hazardous materials in volunteers' homes and communities.

Volunteers spend time researching contaminants and effects and then inform their neighborhood residents about the potential dangers of hazardous wastes in and around their homes. Volunteers also train others in the areas of conserving energy, reducing waste, conserving water, reducing run-off and utilizing indoor and outdoor plants as a health benefit. Volunteers from K-12 and higher education partner with community based agency representatives and county government to identify and remove hazardous waste and materials from homes.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: WILDLIFE PRESERVATION**

A council of volunteers focused solely on reducing the environmental impact of visitors at 5 preserves and national parks in the state.

Working with environmentalists, rangers, and college professors, volunteers spend time creating signs, posters, an online video campaign, etc. to help remind visitors how to leave as little mark on the natural surroundings as possible.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: HOME SAFETY FOR SENIORS**

Home Safety for Seniors focuses on assessing needs and installing items in a senior's home that increases their overall health. Typical safety equipment includes items such as smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, anti-slip bath and rug mats, energy efficient light bulbs, levered door handles, floor fans, etc.

Teams of volunteers visit seniors who have been referred by senior service agencies in their homes to assess their safety needs and deliver/install safety items. All services are free to seniors. Before the project, participants must complete the 2 hour Aging Sensitivity course and after, both volunteers and recipients complete surveys to evaluate their satisfaction and get feedback. This feedback is used by the overseeing committee (entirely volunteer), which meets to insure the needs are being met in the most efficient and least invasive manner.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: HEALTH E SENIORS**

Health E Seniors provides computer classes for senior citizens and families to help find reliable health information on the web.

Volunteers develop the curriculum and provide this class to various community centers in the area.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: COMIC RELIEF /BEARIN' IT**

Comic Relief collects old comics and graphic novels for young people who are hospitalized, or recovering abuse. Bearin' It hosts stuffed animal collections for children in medical and psychological recovery.

Volunteers host drives, coordinate with hospitals and recovery centers and drop off donations.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: RUDOLPH'S RED NOSE EXPRESS**

Rudolph's Red Nose Express is an annual project which culminates with volunteers (teams of Santas and elves) delivering presents during Christmas Eve home visits to children who have been identified by various organizations.

Volunteers serve as Santas, elves, support teams, drivers, route organizers, verifiers (contacting all the families the week before to confirm ages of children, and whether they want the free visit), wrappers, sorters, bag checkers and donation solicitors throughout the month of December.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: CAROUSEL KIDS**

Carousel Kids provides babysitting and respite care by certified volunteer sitters.

Volunteers must be certified by the American Red Cross (your agency may cover the fees). Then they are added to a list of available babysitters, and pre-screened families in their neighborhood can be connected to them through your agency. Teen volunteers earn service hours for their work in lieu of payment.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: WEEKEND DADS**

Weekend Dads was started by a teen having trouble finding ways to relate to her well-meaning Dad when she was visiting him, who was "clueless" when it came to figuring out what to do with their time together. This project encourages families of all shapes and schedules to volunteer in a variety of monthly projects.

This is a family volunteer initiative, so the eligible projects are the opportunities open to all ages. The program idea is that volunteers will participate with their children in mostly episodic events around the community. The goal is to encourage deeper community awareness, promote positive activities the family members can do together and establish volunteerism as a natural part of life.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: OPERATION PAINTEEN**

Volunteers paint the exterior of homes for families in need...FREE!

Volunteers collect, evaluate and prioritize the requests for this service, coordinate project dates, collect waivers, acquire paint donation and transport materials and, naturally, paint the houses!

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED**

Volunteers assemble gifts (bikes, swing sets, etc.) during the holiday season.

Volunteers field phone calls requesting this (often last minute) service during the Christmas season, and organize shifts and teams to assemble a wide variety of items. Participants often report feeling accomplished and “handy” when finished.

## **PROJECT EXAMPLE: NOSEY NEIGHBORS**

Nosey Neighbors connects families and neighborhoods.

Teams of volunteers organize block parties in their own neighborhoods. They invite all residents to attend. They serve refreshments, engage speakers, and request the attendees to complete questionnaires, listing their personal needs as well as any skills or talents they might be willing to share with neighbors. The goals are to bring residents of a neighborhood together in an informal setting; to gather important information in terms of neighborhood needs; and to publish a Resident Guide Book after the event, listing the names and addresses of the residents and their needs/skills, etc.



# Neighboring Feature: Winter Preparedness Party

## Host a WinterReady Neighborhood Preparedness Party!

Prepare your community for winter and emergencies of all kinds by organizing a **WinterReady Neighborhood Preparedness Party**. By hosting an event, promoting local volunteerism, and sharing emergency preparedness information, you can help ensure your neighborhood and whole community **are disaster ready**. The Governor's Office of Community Service can help sponsor your event! You can receive supplies to build emergency supply starter kits, resources to host a *Map Your Neighborhood* training, and meal reimbursements for participants.

### 10 Steps to hosting a Preparedness Party or Training

1. Plan your party or training with local community leaders and volunteers (examples: DES Coordinators, local fire departments, Senior Corps programs, AmeriCorps Programs, Aging Services, schools, etc)
2. Research location, date, and estimated number of participants
3. **Submit an "Event Funding/Supply Request Form" to the Governor's Office of Community Service (OCS)**
4. If funding is requested and upon confirmation of funding from OCS, **submit a signed "Funding Agreement"**
5. OCS will send you emergency supply starter kits supplies and *Map Your Neighborhood* resources
6. Promote your event- post to Build Montana or contact OCS for assistance
7. Host your event! Make sure to take pictures and have everyone sign in
8. Submit your receipts for reimbursement with a signed and completed **"Training Final Report" form**
9. Receive reimbursement (if applicable)
10. Celebrate that your community is prepared!



#### Contact us to get started!

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