May Edition

American Red Cross

YOUTHWIRE

Impact Starts Here

Latest from the National Youth Council

The National Youth Council is excited to share that our FY26–FY28 council member application cycle has officially closed. We are incredibly grateful for the passion, dedication, and time each applicant put into their submission; it truly reflects the strength and impact of our youth community.

To everyone who applied, thank you for stepping up to lead and serve. Please continue to search for ways you can make a difference through the "Opportunities" tab on Volunteer Connection. We will also open the Youth and Young Adult Ambassador application in the upcoming months.

Water Safety Month

It only takes a moment. A child or weak swimmer can drown in the time it takes to reply to a text, check a fishing line or apply sunscreen. Death and injury from drownings happen every day in home pools and hot tubs, at the beach or in oceans, lakes, rivers and streams, bathtubs, and even buckets.

Myth:
It's **obvious** when someone is drowning.

Reality:
Drowning is often **silent** and can happen quickly.

To learn more about water safety, visit Water Safety | American Red Cross and sign up for a Swimming + Water Safety class. Here are some tips:

- Ensure every member of your family learns to swim (Find swim classes near you) so they at least achieve skills of water competency: able to enter the water, get a breath, stay afloat, change position, swim a distance then get out of the water safely.
- Employ layers of protection including barriers to prevent access to water, life jackets, and close supervision of children to prevent drowning.
- Know what to do in a water emergency—including how to safely help someone in trouble in the water, call for emergency help and CPR (Take a CPR class).

VIDA x National Youth Council MapSwipe

Join us on May 19 at 7:00pm ET for a MapSwipe event!

MapSwipe is a humanitarian mapping tool that enables volunteers to analyze satellite imagery to identify vulnerable communities and strengthen disaster response efforts worldwide. No prior experience is needed, just a willingness to make an impact from anywhere. This is a great opportunity to engage with VIDA, support global preparedness, and connect with others.

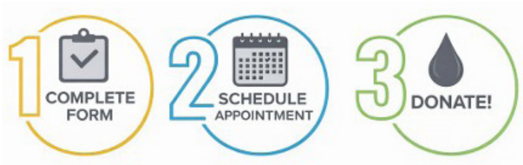
The VIDA (Voices, Inclusion, Diversity, Advancement) Resource Group empowers Hispanic/Latino leaders and allies through connection, advocacy, and inclusive leadership spaces across the American Red Cross.

LOTUS Virtual Blood Drive

In honor of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI+) Heritage Month, the LOTUS Team Member Resource

Group is proud to host a national blood drive to build a more connected community. LOTUS strives to uplift Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and ally voices to drive meaningful change.

Did you know that the rare JK3 phenotype in blood occurs in about 1 in 10,000 people—but in AANHPI+ communities, particularly Polynesian populations, it's about 1 in 100? If you donate as part of the campaign, we are partnering so your donation will be screened for this rare phenotype. Learn more on our OneSource page and help us reach 50 donations throughout May by following the 3 easy steps below!



Pledge and donate here!

Reach out to LOTUSTMRG@redcross.org with questions, pictures of your donations, or whether you donated platelets.

Leaders Save Lives Scholarship

Leaders Save Lives
Make your mark.

The Leaders Save Lives Program gives students the opportunity to host a blood drive and support patients in need, while earning exciting rewards. Host your own blood drive and invite your friends, family and community to give blood! Please visit Scholarship Opp For Hosting Blood Drive | Red Cross Blood Services for the latest.

Program Dates

- **Summer Program: May 25–September 7**
- Winter Program: December 15–January 15

To be eligible, a student Blood Program Leader must:

- Be enrolled in high school or college
- Collect 25 pints or more
- Form a recruitment committee and recruit blood donors

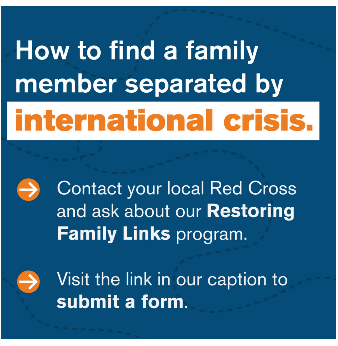
Blood Donors Needed

Big news for May donors! Come to give blood or platelets with the Red Cross May 1–17 and get a $20 Amazon Gift Card by email from Amazon! That's a major thank-you for a major impact. Treat yourself while helping patients in need — win-win! Book now.

Get summer-ready:
Give blood.
$20

Pick your day and help keep the blood supply strong! When you come to give blood or platelets May 18–31, you'll snag an oversized Red Cross beach towel — perfect for every sunny adventure — while they last. Book now.

International Day of Families



How to find a family member separated by **international crisis.**

- Contact your local Red Cross and ask about our **Restoring Family Links** program.
- Visit the link in our caption to **submit a form.**

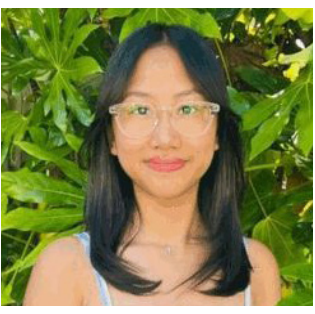
On International Day of Families, we're reminded of the importance of connection, especially during times of crisis. Around the world, armed conflict, disasters and migration can separate loved ones, leaving families searching for answers. As part of the world's largest humanitarian network, Red Cross and Red Crescent teams work across borders to locate missing loved ones and restore communication — often after years of separation. These services are free, confidential, and focused on helping families reconnect when traditional communication methods are no longer possible. Visit Reconnecting Families | American Red Cross to learn more about our work.

Volunteer Spotlight

Niyathi Shah

Former President of the Red Cross Club at the University of Virginia, former member of the NCGC Region's Youth Executive Board, and Virginia Region Young Adult Ambassador. Discover Niyathi's Red Cross impact here.

Lana Nguyen



Northwest Region Youth Impact Project Volunteer. Lana supports remote projects like health and safety infographics and water safety awareness, showing how small acts of service can create real impact. Discover Lana's Red Cross impact here.

Sophia Lee

President of the Mira Loma High School Red Cross Club, Chair of the California Gold Country Youth Executive Board, and IHL YAC Youth Ambassador for the Pacific Division. From joining as a freshman to leading at multiple levels, Sophia is driven by meaningful service and a passion for making a difference through humanitarian action. Discover Sophia's Red Cross impact here.

Misha Tumma

Founder and President of The Woodlands High School Red Cross Club, Texas Gulf Coast Region IHL Chair, 2024 Volunteer of the Year, Youth Planning Ambassador, and National Charity League Coordinator. Discover Misha's Red Cross impact here.

Know an outstanding volunteer or club making a difference? Nominate them for our Volunteer & Club Spotlight—we'd love to celebrate their impact!

Other Youth and Young Adult Stories

- Growing up watching her mom teach people how to save lives, 11-year-old Elena started following in her footsteps. | American Red Cross of Tennessee
- Alexis Thant first discovered the American Red Cross as a 7th grader looking for a place to get involved, and she's been part of the mission ever since. | American Red Cross Central California Region
- This week, we're proud to recognize three incredible young leaders from our Career Practicum Program — Chayla, Meher, and Nasrine | American Red Cross, Rota, Spain

WHAT IS YOUTHWIRE?

Created by your National Youth Council, YouthWire is a monthly e-newsletter containing important Red Cross youth volunteer opportunities, stories and resources for youth, young adults and youth champions! We always want to highlight great stories and hear what awesome things are happening in your region!

Let us know what's new for you!
Questions about youth volunteering with the American Red Cross? Email YouthInvolvement@redcross.org.

Get Social and Share!
Share YouthWire with your peers and invite them to subscribe.

Log Your Hours on Volunteer Connection!
Make it count! Remember to log your hours.

If you no longer wish to receive YouthWire, click here to unsubscribe

Subscribe | **Contact Us** | **Privacy Policy** | **View in browser**

Staying in touch via the American Red Cross email list is the best way we have of keeping in regular contact with supporters like you, letting you know about how you can protect yourself and your loved ones from disasters and other emergencies, and how you can support our lifesaving work.

Click here to unsubscribe from our list, but please know that if you leave, it will be harder for you to stay involved with the Red Cross and continue the work of which you've been such a critical part. It is only because of supporters like you that the Red Cross is able to respond when a disaster strikes or a home is impacted by fire, when someone needs CPR or a lifesaving blood transfusion, or when a family needs to contact a deployed service member in an emergency. And we don't want to lose you! Thanks for your support!

Please do not reply to this email as we are not able to respond to messages sent to this address.

© **2025 American Red Cross** | 431 18th Street NW Washington DC 20006
Donate by phone: **1-800-RED CROSS** (1-800-733-2767) | **Donate by Mail.**

Help people affected by disasters big and small.
A gift of any size supports all of the urgent humanitarian needs of the American Red Cross.
Prepare, respond and help families recover from home fires.
Your gift will help ensure that those who serve our country have our unwavering support.
Help ensure that the life-saving gift of blood and blood products will be available and as safe as possible whenever and wherever it is needed.

BBB ACCREDITED CHARITY
give.org

Platinum
Transparency
2024
Candid.

90¢

The Red Cross is proud that an average of 90 cents of every dollar we spend is invested in delivering care and comfort to those in need.