September Edition

American Red Cross

YOUTHWIRE

Impact Starts Here

Latest from the National Youth Council

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT
you!

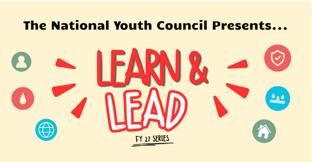
The National Youth Council is excited to kick off FY27 with new opportunities for youth volunteers to learn, lead and serve. Throughout the year, YouthWire will keep you updated on upcoming events, leadership opportunities, and resources to help you further your service and community impact. We look forward to another year of empowering young leaders and strengthening the future of the American Red Cross together!

Thank You, Outgoing National Youth Council Members!

From left to right and top to bottom: Natasha Banga, Sydney Martinez, Natalie Kim, Emily Wang, Tanvi Madugonde, Faith Fernandes, Kaylee Kim, and Jacob Mathew.

These incredible leaders have dedicated the past few years to serving on the National Youth Council, leaving a lasting impact on youth and young adult volunteers throughout the country. Thank you for your dedication, leadership, and legacy. It has truly been a privilege to work alongside each of you. We can't wait to see all that you'll accomplish next!

Learn and Lead FY27 Series


The National Youth Council Presents...
LEARN & LEAD
FY 27 SERIES

Crash Course Calls (CCCs) are now the **Learn & Lead Series!** While the name has changed, the goal remains the same: providing engaging opportunities for youth volunteers to learn new skills, explore the Red Cross mission, and put those skills into practice as they grow as leaders. Sessions will be held on **the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. ET** from **September 2026 through July 2027**. To join us each month, be sure to register through Volunteer Connection Youth & Young Adult Events Calendar.

This year's series will feature a variety of interactive topics. Our first two include:

- **October 1, 2026: Red Cross Around the Globe**—Learn about global disaster response, refugee assistance, IFRC opportunities, and how youth volunteers can support humanitarian efforts worldwide.
- **November 5, 2026: National Youth Involvement Month**—Learn directly from youth and young volunteers who have made an impact across all lines of services.

Whether you're a new volunteer or a seasoned leader, the Learn & Lead Series offers something for everyone. We hope you'll join us each month as we learn, lead, and serve together!

Youth and Young Adult

Ambassador Program

Youth and Young Adult Ambassador
APPLICATIONS
SEPTEMBER 17TH 2026

Are you passionate about empowering youth volunteers, building leadership skills, and bringing national initiatives to life? The Red Cross Youth and Young Adult Ambassador Program is your chance to step into a leadership role and make a lasting impact.

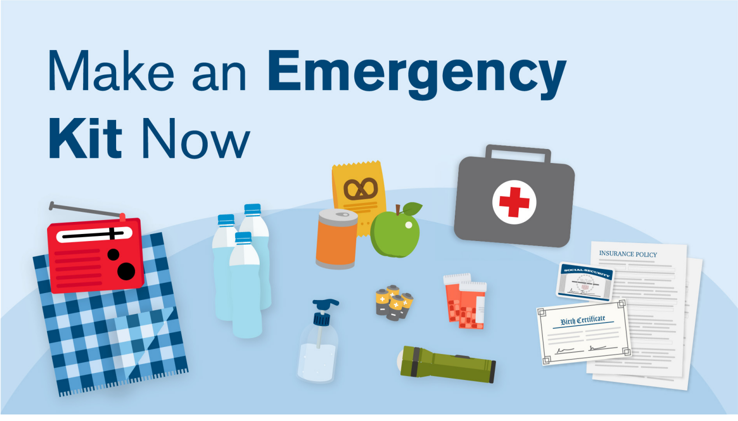
By becoming an ambassador, you will have the incredible opportunity to represent your region on a national level. You'll join a group of passionate peers across the country, develop invaluable skills, and implement exciting projects and initiatives designed to inspire youth initiatives right in your community, both locally and nationally.

We invite volunteers 24 years of age or younger with at least one year of Red Cross volunteer experience to apply.

Applications officially open September 17!

Don't miss your chance to elevate your volunteer journey, amplify your voice, and inspire the next generation of Red Cross leaders. Keep an eye out for the application on the Opportunities tab of Volunteer Connection!

Monthly Focus: National Preparedness Month



Can you find all the emergency supplies in your home in under 5 minutes? If not, this month is the perfect time to build or organize your emergency kit!

It's September, which means it's National Preparedness Month! No one likes to think about the worst-case scenario, but when unpredictable emergencies can take place at any time, being prepared can make all the difference. Whether it's creating an emergency kit, a fire escape plan, or learning lifesaving skills like CPR, the small steps we take today help protect us, our families and our communities tomorrow.

The American Red Cross responds to more than 60,000 disasters each year and is committed to helping youth and young adults prepare for disasters through education, resources and volunteer opportunities. This year we encourage YOU to participate in National Preparedness Month and take action. For more on being Red Cross Ready, visit our Emergency Preparedness Page.

Expand Your Knowledge: International Day of Peace

We're part of the world's largest humanitarian network.

September 21 marks the **International Day of Peace**: a global call to action promoting understanding, kindness and support.

On this day, we celebrate global **unity and solidarity**, reaffirming our shared responsibility to create a more peaceful world across cultures, nations and backgrounds. We can also promote **awareness and education** by encouraging conversations about peacebuilding and the impacts of conflict on communities. While peace is often discussed on a global scale, it begins with the actions we take in our everyday lives. As youth volunteers, we have the power to create positive change through our service and leadership.

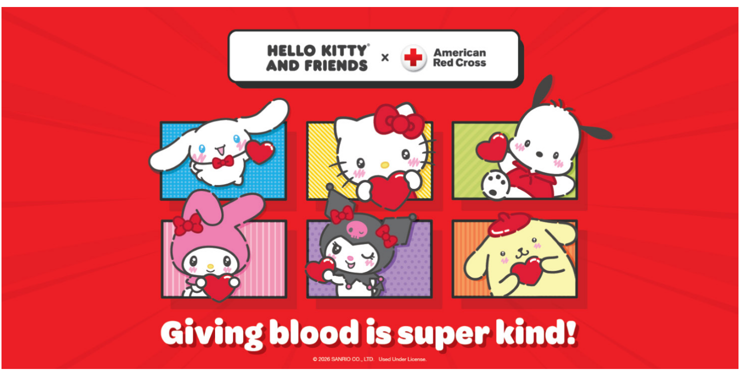
International Humanitarian Law Summit

The International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Youth Action Campaign (YAC) is an American Red Cross student program that brings together youth advocates from across the world to promote awareness of International Humanitarian Law. Each year, participants complete trainings on IHL, the Red Cross Movement, an annual special theme, and campaign-building before launching outreach efforts as IHL YAC Ambassadors in their communities. Through their campaigns during the school year, ambassadors can earn a spot at the Annual IHL Youth Summit, where selected representatives participate in virtual leadership and learning activities before attending a fully funded trip to Washington, D.C each summer.

This year, 28 IHL YAC participants were selected from more than 100 applicants to attend the Summit. After several weeks of virtual collaboration, participants traveled to the American Red Cross National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. to learn from guest speakers, expand their IHL knowledge, connect with fellow youth leaders, and explore the city.

At this year's IHL Youth Summit, participants met professionals in the IHL field, including ICRC legal advisors and the president of the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation, took a private tour of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and learned about modern mass atrocity prevention. The IHL Youth Summit is a unique opportunity that youth volunteers can earn through active participation in the IHL Youth Action Campaign. If you want the chance to earn your spot at next year's Summit, keep an eye on Volunteer Connection where applications will open for this year's Youth Action Campaign cohort of IHL YAC Ambassadors!

Blood Donors Needed!


HELLO KITTY AND FRIENDS
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American Red Cross
Giving blood is super kind!
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Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood, but only 3 out of 100 eligible Americans donate each year. That's why we're teaming up with Hello Kitty® and Friends this September to show that one donation can make a big difference. Make a lifesaving impact by joining us to donate blood between September 1–20.

As a thank you, you'll receive an exclusive American Red Cross x Hello Kitty collectible item—available while supplies last! We're not ready to spill the tea just yet, but we promise it'll be adorable! Can you guess what it is? Be the first to know by signing up here. Stay tuned for the big reveal!!

Red Cross Club Spotlight

American Red Cross
Nordonia High School
Red Cross Club

Nordonia High School Red Cross Club—Located in Macedonia, Ohio, this dedicated club of approximately 25 students is making a meaningful impact through community service, blood drives and creative service projects. From supporting local shelters and projects to partnering with senior living communities, Nordonia members are committed to strengthening their community. They truly are living out the humanitarian mission of the American Red Cross. Discover their story here.

Liberty University Red Cross Club—Located in Lynchburg, Virginia, this outstanding club of 50 active members empowers students through leadership, preparedness and humanitarian service. From hosting impactful events like Safety/Impact Day to teaching Hands-Only CPR and Stop the Bleed skills to more than 200 participants, the club continues to expand its impact across campus and the surrounding community while championing the mission of the American Red Cross. Discover their story here.

Other Youth and Young Adult Stories

- Jade is an American Red Cross phlebotomist, giving back to the same community of donors who have helped give her a life she loves.
- After a stranger helped save her grandfather's life during a heart attack, Shreya Jupelly knew she wanted to help others do the same.
- When a young boy began drowning at a pool party, Red Cross-trained lifeguard Malik Osman knew he had seconds to act.

Share Youth Success Stories

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We are highlighting the inspiring work and accomplishments of our youth and young adult volunteers across the country, and we need your help. No example is too big or small, so click here to nominate an outstanding success story!

Not sure what to share? Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- What project, event, or accomplishment are you most proud of?
- How have you or your Red Cross Club made a difference in your community?
- What creative ideas or initiative has helped your club grow or increase its impact?
- What has made your experience as a Red Cross volunteer meaningful?
- What has helped new youth or young adult volunteers feel welcomed and supported?

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.

Follow us on social media!
Instagram: @americanredcrossyouth.

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.

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Donate by phone: **1-800-HELP NOW** 1-800-435-7669) | **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.

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