



Latest from Youth Leaders

Happy Black History Month! This month, our youth and young adult focus is on diversity and inclusion. This includes our brand-new youth and young adult diversity and inclusion toolkit and ways in which you can honor the impact of Black and African American Red Crosser contributions. This edition of YouthWire is full of exciting resources and tools for you to continue your Red Cross leadership and support fulfilling our lifesaving mission!

Looking back on all the great contributions of youth and young adults so far this school year, National Youth Involvement Month (NYIM) in November was a great success. Your response was amazing – in total, there were 804 registrations, 71 participating clubs, 6 represented divisions, and 300 event submissions. Club and individual winners from each division were recognized in a virtual awards ceremony on January 24, which was complete with a Jeopardy style game show and other fun activities. Thank you so much for making the first virtual NYIM unforgettable! We hope you also had a memorable experience, and we look forward to seeing the awesome things you'll show us for NYIM 2021.



February Monthly Focus: Diversity & Inclusion

The Red Cross aspires to be an organization fully committed to diversity and inclusion by creating and maintaining a diverse, high-performing workforce of employees and volunteers. Furthermore, we are committed to celebrating the various communities that make up our Red Cross family, because understanding each other is often the first steps towards unity.

With this mission in mind, we are excited to launch a new youth and young adult [diversity and inclusion toolkit](#). The toolkit includes resources and one-pagers you can use to kickstart a discussion on Diversity & Inclusion during Red Cross Club meetings or your [Youth Diversity Pledge](#) sessions. You can view the full toolkit here on [RedCrossYouth.org!](#)

In addition to the new toolkit, we invite you to celebrate Black History Month! Here are four ways to get started:

1. Learn more about the notable African Americans who have paved the way in our organization. Check out and share the latest Red Cross Chat [blog post](#).

Youth Volunteer Spotlight: Will Chai



Will serves as both the Chair of the National Youth Council and the Youth Representative on the National Diversity Advisory Council

Growing up in a multicultural community, Will has always appreciated the value of having a diversified experience. In fact, this background was what motivated him to serve on the National Diversity Advisory Council. As the Youth Representative, Will works alongside corporate executives and senior leadership to advise the Red Cross on strategic issues related to diversity & inclusion. The Council also fosters diversity initiatives and partnerships, such as by promoting diversity within Biomedical Services to help sickle cell patients.

One of Will's latest projects was speaking as a co-panelist in the January session of the [Red Cross Cultural Competency Series](#). As hundreds of Red Cross staff and volunteers across the country listened in, he discussed generational differences within our organization, specifically focusing on his own generation, Gen Z. This presentation helped to foster inter-generational understanding and gave insight into how Gen Z uses

2. Be a champion of supporting our diverse donor blood supply by sharing [Nari'k's story](#) about the constant need for lifesaving blood.
3. Join the National Youth Council on Friday, February 27 at 7pm ET for a movie night as we watch *Just Mercy* and discuss the film. Sign up for our movie night using [this form](#).
4. Save the date for the next [Red Cross Cultural Competency Series](#) on February 12 at 1pm ET. Sickle cell disease affects approximately 100,000 Americans – most of whom are Black and Latinx. [The Reality of Sickle Cell Disease and People of Color: Hope is on the Horizon](#) will allow you to learn the vital role of the American Red Cross in supporting those with sickle cell disease and how you can be a valuable part of this work. [Register](#) today.

Expand Your Knowledge



Are you a high school or college student looking for scholarships? The Red Cross has multiple opportunities for you to earn monetary rewards for your hard work and dedication to the Red Cross. In fact, the application to one of our most prestigious scholarships, the [Navin Narayan Scholarship](#), opens on February 8 for qualified high school seniors. Visit [here](#) to see if you qualify for this amazing scholarship and other opportunities.

Get Social and Share!

Follow our Facebook and new Instagram page for updates, events and reminders!

Facebook: @AmericanRedCrossYouthNetwork
Instagram: @americanredcrossyouth

Share this newsletter with your peers and friends or have them email YouthInvolvement@redcross.org to **subscribe to our newsletter**.

Log Your Hours on Volunteer Connection!

The time you spend volunteering is critical to the American Red Cross. It is important that volunteer hours are submitted through Volunteer Connection so that they can be tracked as part of the overall mission.

Help us tell the story of the incredible impact of youth & young adults have by logging your hours today! Use this helpful [tip sheet](#) to walk through how to submit your volunteer hours on [Volunteer Connection](#)!



social media to create positive change.

Thank you for your commitment to increasing awareness and appreciation for others in the Red Cross, Will. Keep up the great work!

February is Also National Heart Month!



February is National Heart Month and the perfect time to take training from the American Red Cross and be trained and/or certified in many useful skills. Available courses include first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), babysitting, lifeguarding and more. People who have learned this critical knowledge can not only prevent, prepare for and respond to a number of life-threatening scenarios, but also strengthen communities and educate others.

Depending on your needs or circumstances, training programs can be in-person, online, or a hybrid. To learn more about the options available to youth and young adult volunteers, connect with your local Red Cross contact. To see the full listing of classes, visit redcross.org/take-a-class. Thank you for taking the first step to being prepared.

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 are always looking to highlight great stories and want to 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