
YOUTHWIRE

— *Impact Starts Here* —



**American
Red Cross**

Youth & Young Adults

A SUMMER OF SERVICE

JUNE 2024

Latest from Youth Leaders – Summer Series!



Hi youth volunteers!

Summer is approaching! As the school year winds down, we know summer is traditionally a time when our clubs are offline, but we know you all want to be involved during the summer months! Although it can be challenging to keep up with volunteering, the American Red Cross mission needs your support year-round, and your contributions are always valued!

Check [here](#) to learn more about the National Youth Council's *Summer Series* for exciting events and activities we will be rolling out for you all. We've got plenty in store to keep you engaged while school is out of session! You can register for all of these events on [Volunteer Connection!](#) Looking forward to seeing your service this summer!

- **WEEK 1: Summer's Here, What's Next?**

Beachside Chat with the National Youth Council! Ways to Engage in Biomedical Services **(June 17)**

Potential Youth Spotlight: Krystal Yackulak



Krystal, High School Volunteer

Krystal was selected as Eastern Technical High School's (ETHS) Freshman Ambassador in 2020, marking the start of her Red Cross journey. She served as Vice-President for the following two years before stepping up to the position of ETHS's Red Cross Club President. Krystal will be attending Stevenson University on a full-ride scholarship this fall where she will be majoring in nursing and entering her fifth year with the Red Cross. She

- **WEEK 2: Sharing Your Impact on Socials**
Young Adult Stories: Disaster Response Experience (Emerging Heroes: Young Adults in Disaster Relief) - **(June 22)**
- **WEEK 3: Stories of Strength**
Youth in Disaster Recovery **(June 23 - June 29)**
- **WEEK 4:** Getting involved with Climate at the Red Cross **(June 30 - July 6)**
- **WEEK 5: Engagement Week - NO EVENT (July 7 - July 13)**
- **WEEK 6:** Club Engagement Workshop: Starting Your Own Red Cross Club! **(July 14 - July 20)**
- **WEEK 7:** Swipe to Save Lives - MapSwipe Virtual Service Event **(July 21 - 27)**
- **WEEK 8:** Welcome new NYC Chair / Back to School **(July 28 - August 3)**

hopes to further her leadership experiences and remain involved with the Red Cross mission.

Krystal is also entering into her fourth term with the National Capital & Greater Chesapeake Region's Youth Advisory Board, first acting as the Board's Communications Lead, then as Social Media Director, back to Communications Lead, and now rising to the position of the Onboarding Committee Lead. This committee is a brand-new addition to the Youth Advisory Board that will work to induct and train new Red Cross Clubs that are looking to join the region. Krystal absolutely loves aiding and guiding other Red Cross leaders in any capacity and is beyond excited and honored to take on this role.

Krystal was the Young Humanitarian of the Year Award recipient for the Central Maryland Chapter in 2023, and her Red Cross Club was awarded Club of the Year for the Central Maryland Chapter for the past four consecutive years. Her all-time favorite memory with the Red Cross is the Honor Flights event where she was able to greet veterans as they got off their planes and hand them each their own personal bouquet.

Do you know of a volunteer who has gone above and beyond to make a memorable impact in their community? Youth Spotlight is a fantastic opportunity for you to nominate outstanding volunteers to receive national recognition for their hard work! Nominate a youth volunteer who deserves this opportunity [here](#).

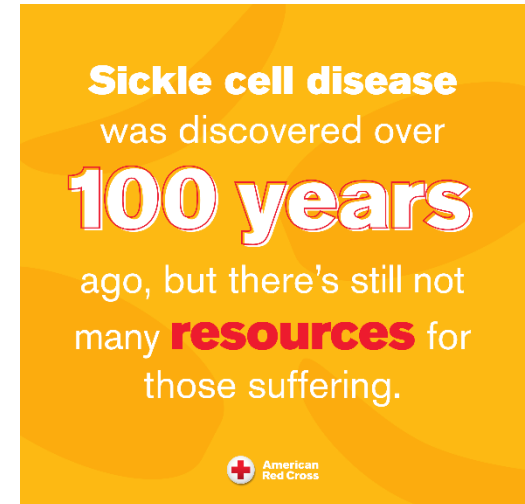
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Spotlights!



[Pride Month](#) is here! Explore a variety of resources to deepen your understanding of the LGBTQIA+ community and discover ways to get involved. Read this [special statement](#) from our Chief Diversity Officer, Adrienne Alberts, honoring Pride Month and Juneteenth! By honoring the LGBTQ+ community and reaffirming our commitment to inclusivity, the Red Cross recognizes the importance of diversity and the strength it brings to our organization and the communities we serve. Get involved by joining our LGBTQ+ initiatives, participating in local Pride events, and advocating for equality in your community. Here are more ways to volunteer this month:

- Join the [Red Cross' Pride Resource Group](#) for a supportive environment to exchange information and ideas, foster a better understanding of the unique issues

June Monthly Focus: Sickle Cell Awareness



World Sickle Cell Day is observed on June 19th, a day dedicated to increasing awareness about sickle cell disease and the challenges faced by those living with it. Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder that affects millions of people worldwide, causing severe pain, anemia, and other serious health complications.

Join the American Red Cross in honoring this day by learning more about sickle cell disease and the importance of regular blood donations in supporting those affected. Consider [donating blood](#) to help ensure a stable supply for patients in need. Your contribution can make a significant difference in the lives of those living with sickle cell disease. Check

facing LGBTQ+ people and allies, and gain opportunities to learn about the LGBTQ+ community.

- Watch June's Cultural Competency video on [Perspectives of Chance: a Decade After the Repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell](#) (DADT). Hear and observe how the repeal of DADT conversely provided a space for LGBTQ+ individuals to serve in the military freely and with more authenticity than ever available before in history.
- Check out the [Allyship in Action: After George Floyd](#) as Umoja explores how the mass movement toward social justice reform is shifting and what tangible implementations are being put into place

Additional DEI Highlights:

On June 19th, we commemorate Juneteenth, a day marking the end of slavery in the United States. The Red Cross is dedicated to acknowledging this pivotal moment in history and supporting the ongoing fight for racial equality and justice. You can participate by attending educational events, volunteering for local diversity and inclusion programs, and supporting initiatives that promote racial equity.

World Refugee Day: June 20th is World Refugee Day, a time to honor and support refugees worldwide. With 1 in every 88 people on the planet displaced by conflict or persecution, the Red Cross stands in solidarity with refugees, providing crucial assistance and advocating for their rights. Get involved by volunteering at local refugee support programs, organizing fundraising events, and raising awareness about refugee issues. Read a story about the Red Cross impact [here](#).

out this [article](#) by Dr. Lametra Scott to learn more about her sickle cell story.

Visit [here](#) to find out how you can get involved, support awareness campaigns, and participate in local events dedicated to combating this disease. Together, we can help improve the quality of life for individuals with sickle cell disease and move closer to finding a cure.

Fundraising Highlight: June Swim Challenge



Calling all swimmers! Dive into action this June and support swim lessons in communities with a higher risk of drowning by joining the 15 Mile Swim Challenge hosted by the American Red Cross.

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!



Help us tell the story of youth & young adults' incredible impact by submitting a [spotlight form](#) today.

Need Volunteer Connection support? Check out these helpful [guides and video tutorials!](#)



If you no longer want to receive YouthWire, please click here to [unsubscribe](#).

Where is the Challenge?

The June 15 Mile Swim Challenge is hosted on Facebook. You can complete your miles anywhere you choose!

How do I join?

Join the [Facebook group](#) for community and motivation, [start a fundraiser](#), and we'll send you your Red Cross swim cap and tote bag when you receive your first donation! [Register today!](#)

What happens after I join?

- After you join the Challenge (following the steps above), starting on June 1 you can track your miles through Messenger as you work towards your goal of 15 miles by the end of June.
- Throughout the event you will receive communications through Facebook Messenger and from posts in the Facebook Group providing updates, encouragement, fundraising tips, and engagement with the community.
- While working on your swim miles throughout the month, we encourage you to fundraise \$250 to support the urgent humanitarian work of the Red Cross.

Contact P2PFundraising@redcross.org with questions.

