



Latest from Youth Leaders

Hello and happy 2021! New years are oftentimes the start of new beginnings, opportunities and experiences – such as the [IHL Essay Competition](#)!

The goal of this competition is to encourage learning about International Humanitarian Law. All U.S. citizens, regardless of location, and non-U.S. citizens currently residing in the U.S. or its territories are eligible to enter. However, Red Cross employees and their immediate family cannot compete. This year's prompt is to write about **Education in War**, which includes topics such as the effects of armed conflict on children's education and the role of schools in teaching peace and preventing armed conflict.

Each person can only submit one essay, which must be 1500 words or less, excluding footnotes and the bibliography. Entries must also be typed, written in English, contain proper citations and a bibliography, and include the author's name, contact information, and category for submission ((1) High school students, (2) College students, (3) Law school/Graduate school, (4) Adults). All competition materials must be emailed to IHLaw@redcross.org by January 21, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Best of luck!



Mission Red: Blood Saves Lives

Calling all youth and young adult volunteers and Red Cross Clubs! You are invited to participate in our [Mission Red: Blood Saves Lives](#) charity livestream fundraising campaign to help ensure that a safe and reliable blood supply is available for patients in need.

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood – people with cancer, trauma patients, moms with complicated childbirths, accident victims, people living with blood disorders such as sickle cell disease, and countless others. With your help, we can stream hope and fight to ensure that lifesaving blood will be there for those in need. Furthermore, for every \$100 that you or your Red Cross Club raises, you will earn some awesome individual or team prizes, like an adventure duffel. Here's [a quick guide](#) on using Tiltify to fundraise for the Red Cross to get you started.

Let's make it a mission accomplished by donating or hosting a fundraiser today!

Youth Volunteer Spotlight: Peter Zucca



Peter Zucca, a volunteer in the Southern Pennsylvania Region, hosted over 40 blood drives in 2020

When Peter Zucca was only 10 months old, he was diagnosed with cancer. Within a year, he received 51 units of blood during various operations, and those transfusions helped save his life. Upon reflecting on his childhood experience at age 12, Peter emailed his local Red Cross asking to host a blood drive so that he could give back those 51 units.

Now, five years later, Peter has hosted hundreds of blood drives and collected thousands of units of blood. "The need for blood is endless," he says. "I just can't let the kids with cancer down!" Even during COVID-19, Peter was determined to continue hosting blood drives and successfully organized 42 drives by the end of 2020.

Peter emphasizes that "it's important to educate donors on topics such as how they save the lives of kids like me. When people have a good donation experience and understand their impact, we don't just raise the current levels of our blood banks, but also future levels as well!"

Peter, we look forward to seeing you continue your journey with the Red Cross! Thank you for your dedication and supporting lifesaving blood donations!

Expand Your Knowledge



Volunteer Connection is the primary interface for everything Red Cross related. From finding opportunities to accessing EDGE, it has all you need to be an active Red Cross youth or young adult volunteer. You can access Volunteer Connection by going to volunteerconnection.redcross.org or by downloading the Volunteer Connection app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#). If you need help with navigating the site or logging your hours, check out [this awesome guide](#).

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

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](#)!



Unsubscribe from YouthWire

January Monthly Focus: National Blood Donor Month



Blood Services is a fundamental part of the Red Cross culture and identity. With January being National Blood Donor Month and due to the shortage of blood, this line of service needs your support. Three ways you can help out are by donating, leading and volunteering.

Donate

Please consider donating blood at your local Red Cross if you meet the [eligibility requirements](#). If you donate by January 20, you will automatically be entered to win a 65" TV and \$500 gift card. Furthermore, if you donate by January 31, you might win a [Super Bowl LVI getaway](#) in LA in 2022 for you and a guest. To find a drive and schedule your appointment, [visit here](#).

Lead

Another great way to support Blood Services is by hosting your own blood drive. Feel free to reach out to [your local chapter](#) or sign up to host a [Leaders Save Lives blood drive](#). If you go the second route, you might even win a scholarship of up to \$1000.

Volunteer

For those of you who are 16 and older, you can also volunteer at blood drives by serving as a [Blood Donor Ambassador](#). In this position, you will help ensure that blood donors have a pleasant and fulfilling experience, from the moment they arrive to the moment they leave. During a blood drive, whether you're greeting donors, answering questions or thanking them for their donation, your courtesy and professionalism will create a favorable impression that encourages ongoing donor support.

For more information, visit redcrossblood.org.