

YOUTHWIRE

— Impact Starts Here —



American
Red Cross

Youth Engagement

HERE COMES THE SUN

JUNE 2022

Latest from Youth Leaders

June is National Safety Month. In the United States, injuries account for more than 150,000 deaths and over 3 million non-fatal injuries each year. Throughout this month, take the time to review safety tips and research how to change and avoid behaviors that may lead to harm. Injuries are a leading cause of disability for people of all ages, and as such, maintaining good safety practices is extremely important. A couple of good safety tips are to always [keep a first aid kit on hand](#) and a list of emergency numbers nearby. You never know when disaster will strike and it's best to be prepared. We encourage you to make and practice emergency drills with your family so that everyone is on the same page if something were to occur. Visit these sites for [health and safety training education](#) and [information about preparedness](#).

In the last two weeks alone, America has fallen victim to a multitude of senseless, devastating, and tragic mass shootings. We would like to take a moment to express that the thoughts and deepest sympathies of the entire American Red Cross are with the communities of Uvalde, Milwaukee, Buffalo, Dallas and all others that have been affected. The Red Cross understands the difficulty in understanding, processing and coping with these recent events and wants to reinforce the importance of reaching out to connect and support one another. If you or a loved one needs help, reach out through the Disaster Distress Helpline for free 24/7 support by calling 800-985-5990 or texting TALKWITHUS to 66746. For more resources and an official statement, please

Young Adult Volunteer Spotlight: Cannon High School Red Cross Club



visit [the following link](#). Let's continue to support one another through these difficult times and not forget that we all have each other to lean on.

June 14 is recognized as [World Blood Donor Day](#). Supplying over 40% of the nation's blood supply, the American Red Cross is always in crucial need of more donations. Donating blood is a [simple yet essential](#) process for surgeries, cancer treatment and injuries, and a large majority of youth and young adults are [eligible to donate](#). Do your part and make a [blood donation appointment today](#) at a center near you!



Transitioning to Volunteering Over the Summer

As the school year comes to a close, it often becomes especially difficult for many to continue volunteering. Nonetheless, the American Red Cross is in need of volunteers all year long, and your help is continually in demand and appreciated. Below are some ways you can continue volunteering during the summer.

Cannon High School from the Greater Carolinas Region led their school in a Change for Change fundraiser which raised over \$2,400 for the American Red Cross

This past winter, Cannon High School Officers took action by leading their school in a Change for Change fundraiser, where they collected spare coins and cash from their fellow classmates. Planning was an extensive and crucial step in ensuring the success of their fundraiser. For advertisement, the Club posted announcements on their school blog, sent out emails to all school parents, and hung large posters to spread word about the fundraiser and how one could get involved. By meeting with student council members, the Club decided that they could incentivize donations by exempting the homeroom with the heaviest container of change collected from wearing their uniforms for one week of school. By encouraging friendly competition, the Club motivated students and inspired participation, resulting in a productive fundraiser. Through their efforts, in as little as one week, the Club raised and donated over \$2,400 to the American Red Cross.

If you are interested in starting a similar fundraising campaign, the Club advises picking a cause that aligns with one's passions. "If you are truly interested in a cause or activity, you will be more inclined to have fun and come up with creative ideas during the planning process." They also stated that "it is important to leverage all resources you have access to...connecting directly with teachers and the students allowed us to share the fundraiser more efficiently and inspire participation and interest."

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- Hold a summer cookout with friends and family, while participating in the [Taste of Diversity resource guide](#). During this event, fundraise by preparing popular dishes from cultures across the world in order to raise money for the Red Cross.
 - Though many Red Cross Clubs pause their activities during the summer, you can continue by [volunteering or interning at your local Red Cross chapter](#). Connect with the communities closest to you and provide help firsthand.
 - Plan for the upcoming school year by [starting](#), [reorganizing](#) or improving your school's Red Cross Club. Have fun by leading your Club's members and/or officers in bonding events. Completing escape rooms, going on hikes, rowing on waters, or even just getting food together ensures that each member feels comfortable and secure with one another, leading to the overall success of one's Club. Teamwork makes the dream work!
 - For those of you who recently graduated high school, take some time this summer to read the [Red Cross transition guide](#) as you continue volunteering in college. Regardless of where you may be, there are still many ways to stay involved with the Red Cross after high school. Congratulations, Class of 2022!
 - Visit the [American Red Cross Website](#) in order to find local volunteer opportunities around you.

Whatever activities you choose to participate in this summer, make sure you take proper precautions to stay safe this summer. Read the [Red Cross Summer Safety Guide here](#). Have fun in the sun!

Expand Your Knowledge

Thank you so much for your work, Cannon Red Cross Club! We are excited to see what amazing things you'll continue to accomplish!

Pride Month



June is [Pride Month](#). There are many resources out there to learn more about the LGBTQIA+ community and how you can get involved.

- Join us for last [December's Cultural Competency Series](#) to discuss the experiences and challenges of racial minorities in the LGBTQIA+ community. Discover what it means to dwell in the intersections and compounds of minority races and sexual orientation.
- Join the [Red Cross' Pride Resource Group](#) in order to join a supportive environment to exchange information and ideas, fostering a better understanding of the unique issues facing

Youth and young adult volunteers play a critical role in supporting diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) across the Red Cross' lines of service. The power of harnessing collective similarities and differences enables us to deliver the Red Cross mission in a sensitive and culturally competent manner. To that end, the National Youth Council is conducting a case study on DEI as it relates to youth involvement and would greatly appreciate it if you could take [this survey](#). Doing so will allow us to gauge youth volunteer attitudes and awareness regarding DEI, allowing us to better inform future DEI projects and outreach strategies.



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!

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.

LGBTQ+ people and allies, and offering opportunities to learn about, understand and engage the LGBTQ+ community.

- Watch Junes 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.
- View the [Red Cross' Brochure on Pride Resources](#). Learn about existing support infrastructure within the Red Cross and how you can join us in order to make our Diversity Stronger.

June Fundraising Highlights



Preparing ahead for the coming disaster season, provide aid to the American Red Cross by organizing a [charity livestream fundraiser benefitting Disaster Relief](#). Disaster season lasts from June through November, and through your help, you ensure that the Red Cross is able

Help us tell the story of the incredible impact 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](#). We also have this great new video to aid you in the process of logging your hours on the [desktop version](#) and [mobile app version](#) of Volunteer Connection.



Unsubscribe from YouthWire

to continue providing hot meals, snacks, water, shelter and emergency supplies to those in need. Get started today!