



## Latest from Youth Leaders

The Sickle Cell Fighter High School Scholarship Program is back! The [American Red Cross Sickle Cell Fighter High School Scholarship program](#) is a student scholarship program that will reward schools that successfully collect blood from donors who are Black, supporting the goal of helping sickle cell patients by diversifying the blood supply, while also promoting access to, and diversity in higher education.

Between July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, here's how you can get involved:

- [Educate yourself](#) about sickle cell disease
- Sign up to [host a Blood Drive](#)
- Recruit friends & community members to donate blood

If you are interested in learning more about sickle cell disease, visit [this page](#). To get started with hosting a drive, visit [this page](#) and complete the steps. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to us at [YouthInvolvement@RedCross.org](mailto:YouthInvolvement@RedCross.org).

## Young Adult Spotlight:

### Vybhavi Kotireddy



Vybhavi Kotireddy is a student at the University of Georgia, where she is majoring in Biology with a Neuroscience concentration. Vybhavi began her Red Cross journey as a freshman when she volunteered at her first blood drive at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Since then, she has been

Additionally, this month's Crash Course Call will be covering the Sickle Cell Initiative and the Sickle Cell Fighter Scholarship. Register [here](#) to join us on Sunday, September 18th at 7:30 pm ET! Crash Course Calls (CCC) are a monthly conference call series hosted by the National Youth Council. These calls are intended to inform youth about national opportunities (scholarships, programs, applications), provide resources to run a successful Club and allow youth leaders across the organization to share bright ideas and best practices. Join us!



## National Preparedness & Sickle Cell Awareness Month

September is an important month for our Red Cross mission. Youth and young adult volunteers can share the need to be Red Cross Ready and join the fight against sickle cell disease!

As natural disasters are becoming larger and more common, we encourage individuals and families to prioritize preparedness. Personal preparedness is a great first step in being prepared for a disaster. To learn more about building an emergency kit, making an emergency plan, and how to stay informed during emergencies, check out our [webpage here](#). In the meantime, be sure to download the free [Red Cross Emergency App](#) to stay updated on alerts within your region, receive expert advice on how to prepare for different emergencies, and have easy access to Red Cross shelters. Always Be Prepared with the help of our General Preparedness Checklist ([English/Spanish](#)) from [redcross.org/prepare](https://redcross.org/prepare). Check out all our freely available [resources for youth](#) and watch our series of animated videos ([English/Spanish](#))! You can also volunteer with Disaster Preparedness in your community by utilizing [this flowchart](#).

involved in various local and regional roles. She has served as the Vice President of her high school Red Cross Club and as a member of the Greater Atlanta Youth Club, during which she enjoyed coordinating blood drives and hosting Holiday Cards for Heroes. She also initiated and led the Georgia Youth Advisory Council, where she was able to help facilitate statewide youth communications and host leadership trainings for Georgia youth. Serving as a Field Ambassador during her senior year allowed her to launch a disaster preparedness program in her region. As Georgia can experience a variety of natural disasters, the program aims to help people of various age groups in practicing safety and prevention, with the presentations she has hosted so far focusing on home fires. Now, Vvbhavi serves as Resources Lead of the National Youth Council to help make resources like YouthWire more accessible to youth and young adult volunteers.

**Preparedness Week  
LinkedIn Live**

In addition to the focus on preparedness in September, we also highlight sickle cell awareness this month. Sickle cell disease, which changes the composition of red blood cells and can cause serious complications for patients, is genetically more common in certain ethnic groups, specifically those of African and Hispanic descent. Although there is no cure, blood transfusions are one of the most prominent treatments for sickle cell disease, and the closest blood type matches are usually found in people of the same race or similar ethnicity. Encourage your family and friends [to sign up and donate blood](#) at RedCrossBlood.org. To learn more about [sickle cell disease](#) and [the importance of donation types](#), visit these resources.

## Expand Your Knowledge

The Red Cross First Aid app can be an important tool where free and simple lifesaving information is available. In emergency situations, the instant information about common first aid information and disaster information can be impactful. Visit [this page](#) if you are interested in depth about the app's features.



access to  
preparedness  
in learning more

## 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](mailto:YouthInvolvement@redcross.org)



The Pillowcase Project  
Learn. Practice. Share.



American  
Red Cross

First Aid for  
Severe Trauma

DISASTER SERVICES AND TRAINING SERVICES  
PRESENT A SPECIAL **LINKEDIN LIVE** FOR  
TEACH YOUTH ABOUT PREPAREDNESS WEEK  
**SEPTEMBER 28 AT 2:00 PM ET**

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Teach Youth About Preparedness**  
**LinkedIn Live**

On September 28, 2022 at 2PM ET, Red Cross Training Services is hosting "Teach Youth About Preparedness," a LinkedIn Live featuring speakers from our Youth Preparedness team and the Department of Homeland Security. This Live offers preparedness lessons for most youth age groups:

- Prepare with Pedro (grades K-2)
- The Pillowcase Project (grades 3-5)
- First Aid for Severe Trauma (grades 9-12)

### 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](mailto: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](#)!

Bookmark the [Training Services LinkedIn page](#) to get notified when the event starts – and add a reminder to your calendars to save the date.

## September Fundraising Highlights: Rescue Royale



Rescue Royale is a fundraiser stream-a-thon and Esports tournament. From September 1 to October 15, you can set up a fundraiser that contributes to providing food, shelter, and hope to disaster victims. We invite you to play your favorite video game, cook, sing, or showcase your hobby-making skills! To learn more about connecting the fundraiser to a livestream event and the cool rewards you can earn, visit [this page](#).



**Unsubscribe** from YouthWire