

A GOOD PLACE TO START: VOLUNTEERING!



What is it?

Volunteering, sometimes referred to as civic engagement, involves the combination of individual and collective actions intended to identify and deal with issues of public concern. Individuals from all ages participate civically when they consider they have responsibility not only for themselves but also for their community.

Some examples are:

- Regular volunteering for a nonelectoral organization such as health and social services
- Participation in fund-raising
- Active membership in a group or association

Why this matters:

In today's world, young people often are criticized for not being engaged in their community. Therefore, civic engagement plays a significant role in involving youth in civic life.

Moreover, young people's skills and enthusiasm will be strengthened by;

- Volunteering in organizations
- Actively participating in civic life
- Working with others and even holding leadership roles in community organizations

Notes:

Zukin, Cliff. *A New Engagement?: Political Participation, Civic Life, and the Changing American Citizen*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2006. Print.

Find Youth Info (<http://findyouthinfo.gov/youth-topics/civic-engagement-and-volunteering/what-do-we-know-about-youth-volunteering-and-civic-engagement>)

Binghamton University (<http://www2.binghamton.edu/cce/youth-engagement/benefits.html>)

IDEA (http://www.idea.int/elections/participation/importance_of_youth.cfm)

Through research, public service, and education, the Youth Political Participation Program (YPPP) celebrates and supports the political learning and engagement of young people. For more information, visit our website, yppp.rutgers.edu.