



Grade 8

Community Makeover

Family Newsletter

Volunteering

Roads to Success is a new program designed to help middle and high school students prepare for their futures. This newsletter will keep you posted on what we're doing in school, and how families can follow through at home.

Did you know?

Volunteering is a habit that lasts.

People who volunteer as kids are twice as likely to volunteer once they become adults.

They're even *more* likely to volunteer if they're parents volunteered, too.

Why would anybody work for no pay? This may be the first thing that crosses your son or daughter's mind when you mention volunteering. But it shouldn't be the last.

Reasons to Volunteer

Being a volunteer is rewarding—for the helper as well as the person being helped. Here are a few of the benefits:

Helping others gives a sense of purpose and belonging. Volunteering helps your teen feel connected to his community. It also builds self-confidence.

Volunteering helps your teen develop workplace skills like responsibility and teamwork. It's the perfect way to try out a career to see if it's a good match for her interests and skills.

Doing a good job as a

volunteer provides your teen with references—people who can confirm that he's a hard worker when it's time to apply for college or a job.



Finding volunteer work is also a great way to practice job-hunting skills. Here are some tips to get your teen started.

Finding the Job that Fits

Building, beautifying, caring for animals, collecting clothing, delivering food, fundraising, making hospital visits, reading to younger kids, teaching computer skills... the possibilities are endless!

Student volunteers should think about how much time they have to offer, what they're good at (or what they want to learn more about), and the kind of work environment they'd like. For a list of opportunities in your area, try www.volunteermatch.org.

Honor Your Commitment

Once your student finds volunteer work, encourage her to treat it as she would a paying job. People are counting on her, so showing up on time treating coworkers with respect, and following through on her promises are important.

Reflect

Finally, help your teen see his volunteer work as a learning experience. Recognizing what he loved (or didn't) will help him discover the career path that's right for him.

Grade by Grade: Community Makeover

This semester, Roads to Success eighth graders will have a chance to design a project to benefit their community. In this six-week project, each class will identify a

need in their school or neighborhood. Then they'll create a plan to improve things, complete with a budget and timeline.

Finished proposals will be reviewed by a team of judges. The winning class will get to put their ideas into action.

For more info, visit www.roadstosuccess.org.