

Words of Wisdom from Volunteers

**Be realistic and clear
about the amount of time you can commit.**

It's easier to start small and increase your commitment, than to have to back out because your schedule is overwhelming.

Ask for a job description of your volunteer work.

It helps you *decide if the work is an appropriate fit for you*, and it provides a set of standards or expectations when you do volunteer.

A job description goes a long way towards preventing problems from happening.

Visit the organization that you're interested in before deciding to volunteer. Make an appointment. Get a sense of the staff and clients you'll be working with and a feel for the environment. This way you'll know what to expect before you start.

Volunteering is an opportunity for personal growth. Don't be reluctant to request an evaluation of the work that you perform or a *letter of recommendation*. You may want to list your volunteer service on a future school or job application.

Have fun! Many young volunteers are required to volunteer by their parents or their school. There's nothing you can do about that, but you should make the most of your time while volunteering. Remember that you'll make more of a difference if you enjoy the work you're doing. Volunteering doesn't require a special degree or any prior experience; it's simply a willingness to help.