



Involving Families In Volunteering

Family volunteering grows future generations of volunteers. Studies in the United States have shown that children whose parents volunteer and who participate themselves as part of their family activities are more likely to volunteers as adults.

GoVolunteer, Australia's first national not-for-profit volunteer-matching website, allows families to search for volunteering opportunities using the keyword "team". Therefore please put the word "team" in your job advertisement.

What Families Can Offer

- An increase in the number of volunteers available at one time
- Enthusiasm
- Volunteering families are more likely to volunteer more frequently

Ways to increase Family Volunteering

- Encourage individuals to bring other family members
- Provide appropriate activities (screening and risk management practices may need to be examined)
- Expand existing assignments to make them an attractive option for families
- Design new positions to involve families
- Recruit a retired teacher to work with staff to develop appropriate activities for children and provide staff training for supervising children

Examples of Family-friendly Projects

- Sorting donated books.
- Recycling projects
- Craft projects
- Planting trees
- Fundraising activities
- Assisting with brochure distribution
- Visits to nursing homes
- School and kindergarten activities

Family

Family volunteering allows parents, children and other family members to spend time together while contributing to the community and causes they care about. It can be a fun activity that can improve communication within the family resulting in stronger family relationships.

Volunteering

A growing trend overseas is for families to volunteer together. Family volunteering can involve siblings, parents, spouse and children. Families can volunteer to help a cause close to their heart.

What Families Can Gain from Volunteering:

- Parents act as role models and can demonstrate helping others in need
- An increased sense of worth and accomplishment from making a difference
- A stronger sense of community and decrease in social isolation
- Respect for different people and conditions
- Relative or family members could benefit from the activity
- Learn new skills or using existing skills
- Volunteering is fun and something families can do together