

# YSB's Volun**TEEN** Program starts July 2010!

Call [815.748.2010](tel:815.748.2010) to sign up or find out more!

DeKalb County Youth Service Bureau will launch the newly developed Volun**TEEN** Program this month. The Volun**TEEN** program that will provide DeKalb County youth ages 12-18 with ongoing, organized opportunities to volunteer in their community while enhancing their civic awareness. YSB will provide coordination of volunteer experiences, collaboration with other community organizations, and supervision of the youth that are volunteering.

## **How it Works:**

The Volun**TEEN** program will operate in small group format. This will assist with program efficiency and foster opportunities to build teamwork. Groups will last 4-8 weeks, depending on the length of the project.

Phase One – youth referred for Volun**TEEN** program will participate in an orientation session. During this orientation, the youth will learn about the importance of volunteerism, explore community needs and service opportunities, and generate a list of interests by partaking in the “Y-Face” survey through the YMCA.

Phase Two – youth will select a project, cause, or event that they are interested in as a group, research why it's important, understand the problem, and develop potential solutions.

Phase Three – youth will actively engage in service by enacting their solution plan, promoting awareness, and accomplishing tasks related to service.

Phase Four – youth will reflect on the experience, celebrate their accomplishments, and will be provided with teaching opportunities. Youth will have the option to speak about their experience to new groups or to the community at events (ie: speaking at the City Council meeting).

## **Who should participate?**

- ❖ Many **parents** request that their kids volunteer as a way to build character and expose them to the community and many parents use volunteerism similar to ‘community service’ when their child has misbehaved.
- ❖ More and more **schools** have graduation requirements or various clubs (Honor’s Society, FFA, Key Club) that encourage youth to engage in volunteer opportunities.
- ❖ Youth who have received **community service** requirements from **court**.
- ❖ Parents that would like to promote the [40 Developmental Assets](#) .
- ❖ Other **service agencies** in the community that would like youth to assist in special projects or fundraising events (ie: RAMP, Tails, Elder Care, Hope Haven, etc).

## **How Do I Get Involved?**

Just call 815.748.2010 and ask for Lilian or check out the website at [www.dcysb.com](http://www.dcysb.com).

### **Benefits of Youth Volunteerism:**

- ❖ Volunteerism is an extension of the classroom. It's a hands-on experience that gets integrated into the character threads of the youth. Volunteerism helps develop civic awareness and responsibility, explores career opportunities, and fosters a sense of purpose and higher self esteem.
- ❖ Youth that volunteer are more likely to be stay motivated for school and less likely to engage in risky behaviors.
- ❖ Interacting with adults and providing helpful services makes them feel more valued by adults and by the community.
- ❖ Engaging youth in service experiences will enhance their purpose and build character which will have a direct impact on their relationships with their friends, family, and community.
- ❖ Youth engaged in service are more likely to be workforce ready. They have the opportunity to learn teamwork, collaboration, critical thinking, effective communication and strong work ethics.
- ❖ The Volun**TEEN** program is designed to provide activity that promotes 40 Developmental Assets as identified by the Search Institute and promoted locally by KEYS.

### **Impact on Community**

- ❖ Increased community volunteerism
- ❖ Enhanced civic awareness
- ❖ Neighborhood improvement
- ❖ Increased school success
- ❖ Youth Empowerment
- ❖ Improved economy (volunteerism reduces expenses)