Volunteerism 101

Strengthening Community, Building Bridges, Empowering individuals, & Creating Solutions

What is a Volunteer?

The answer to this question will vary depending on who you ask. However, for our purposes, the Department of Student Life define a volunteer as an individual who gives their time to provide a service or fulfill a need within the community, without being compensated.

Why Volunteer?

There are many motivators for volunteering. Your reason for volunteering may be the same or different from others. Some reasons why individuals and groups volunteer are below:

- Meet new people
- Feel Good
- Gain knowledge about social issues

- Make friends
- “Pay it forward”
- Discover a passion

- Learn skills
- Have fun

- Develop as a leader
- Learn about yourself and others

Benefits of Volunteering?

While people are not compensated monetarily for volunteering, there are both intrinsic and extrinsic benefits. Many of which tie to some of the reason people volunteer.

Here are some of the benefits:

Influence Strengthening Communities
Volunteering provides a method for impacting the people and world around you.

Opportunity Building Bridges
Volunteering can be a gateway to many opportunities. Through volunteering individuals travel the world, network, and gain skills and experience that allow them to secure jobs.

Experience Empowering Individuals
Volunteering is an avenue that can allow someone to gain practical experience working in a field they are interested in, or developing skills they desire to gain.

Education Creating Solutions
Volunteering allows someone to utilize skills and knowledge to solving some of the worlds major

Are you interested in volunteering? If so (and we hope that you are), sign up for our volunteer listserve to hear about the opportunities available in the Rolla community and on the Missouri S&T campus by contacting the Student Life Office at stulife@mst.edu by visiting the website at http://studentlife.mst.edu/volunteer/