

Summer Service Opportunities: 2023



Consider giving your time in service to your neighbor this summer! There are many organizations that need volunteer support. Some are listed below but check out the volunteer websites listed at the bottom for more opportunities.

Track your service hours through the Helper Helper app – click on “Add Past Commitment” to enter the organization, date of service, and name and contact information for the service coordinator there who can validate your attendance. This is particularly important for students signing up for our 2023-2024 Service Achievement Program.

Scroll through all the opportunities or select a category of interest below:

[Education/Camps/Children](#)

[Environment/Animals](#)

[Health](#)

[Homelessness](#)

[Hunger](#)

[Senior Citizens](#)

[Websites for more info](#)

Education/Camps & Working with Children

Camp Buckaroo:

- Camp Buckaroo is a week-long camp for children with disabilities (ages 6-15) and their siblings (ages 6-10) to attend together. It is offered at four locations (St. John the Divine (Houston), The Woodlands, Sugar Land, and Pearland) in four different weeks over the summer. Volunteer hours are 8:30-12:30.
- Apply to be a [Camp Buckaroo Volunteer](#) – be paired 1:1 with a camper, to be their buddy throughout the week and help lead them through activities.
- Volunteers must be at least 15 years old.
- Online application and information at: <https://eastersealshouston.org/services/camps-and-recreation/camps/#:~:text=Camp%20Smiles%20is%20hosted%20a,are%20required%20for%20new%20volunteers>.

Camp Smiles:

- Camp Smiles is a week-long overnight camp for children ages 6-15 with cerebral palsy or similar neurological disorders.
- Apply to be a [Camp Smiles Volunteer](#) – be paired 1:1 with a camper, to be their buddy and personal care giver for the week, assisting them with activities of daily life and helping them participate in activities.
- Location: Camp For All, an adapted camping facility in Burton, TX.
- Dates: July 1-7
- All volunteers must be 16+ years of age
- Online application and information at: <https://eastersealshouston.org/services/camps-and-recreation/camps/#:~:text=Camp%20Smiles%20is%20hosted%20a,are%20required%20for%20new%20volunteers>.

The Health Museum:

- Sign up to be a Summer Youth Volunteer – assist staff with programming related to medicine, science, robotics, and sports.
- Sign up to be a Discovery Cart Volunteer – staff a mobile information station where museum guests can choose to briefly interact with a “real live” person inside the exhibits. Exhibits include a variety of models and demonstrations featuring the circulatory system, respiratory system, and general nutrition.
- Volunteers must be between 16 and 18 years old to participate.
- Online information at: <https://www.thehealthmuseum.org/content-page/volunteering-healthy>

Nature Discovery Center:

- Apply to be a Summer Science Camp Assistant - assist camp instructors and children with crafts, games, snacks, nature walks, and other camp tasks.
- Apply to be a General Summer Assistant - assist with camp check-in and check-out, work with NDC staff on various tasks through the day, fill in as needed with the camp groups. Tasks may also include watering, weeding, raking, litter pick-up, etc. around the park and other tasks around the NDC such as library organization.
- Volunteers serve for at least two weeks.
- Apply before April 28!
- Online application and information at: <https://naturediscoverycenter.org/volunteer/teens/>

Nehemiah Center:

- Volunteer to be a Summer Camp Volunteer - facilitate games, assist with Arts and Crafts, and accompanying students on field trips.
- Volunteer to Lead a Chess or Lego group
- June 5 - June 30
- Contact tobi@nehemiahcenterhouston.org and complete the interest form at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKwTvsJ3SAe1H2OM3_8aOeVLlAlBnxYuAqsH8X_igx619ArA/viewform

SPCA:

- Apply to be a Summer Critter Crew Volunteer - assist camp teachers at the SPCA with campers from 3rd-8th grade.
- Must be 16-18 years old
- Volunteers serve for at least three weeks.
- Apply before May 1!
- Online information and application: <https://houstonspca.org/resources-programs/things-for-kids/2023-critter-camp/>

The River/Theatre Under the Stars:

- The River provides affordable, accessible arts education to individuals with disabilities and their siblings.
- Must be age 15 or older.
- Apply to be a Volunteer – help students during classes in music, art, drama and dance
- Online information and application: https://www.tuts.com/support/volunteer?utm_source=teenlife

Vacation Bible Schools (VBS):

- Many churches around town will be offering weeks of Vacation Bible School and often need volunteers. Contact your own church or a church near you!

Westview School Summer Camp:

- Westview School serves children, ages 2-15, with autism spectrum disorder.
- Volunteer hours 8:30 AM - 2:15 PM
- Apply to be a Summer Camp Volunteer – assist camp staff, working with the children.
- Online information at:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScFlhBNp04IvCO6veqG8LEMay9IVjX1FuL-q-g6SpR51v8J5g/viewform> or email Sarah Chauvin: schauvin@westviewschool.org

Environment/Animals

BARC

- Sign up to be a BARC Volunteer – work with staff to provide extra care and services to the public and the animals housed at the center.
- All volunteers must register with the City of Houston by accessing the link shown below.
- Online information at: <https://www.houstontx.gov/barc/volunteer.html>

Buffalo Bayou Partnership

- Volunteer for one of the monthly Volunteer Workdays.
- Online registrations: <https://buffalobayou.org/calendar/category/volunteer-opportunity/monthly-volunteer-day/>

Coastal Prairie Conservancy

- Sign up to be a Volunteer – engage in a variety of programs such as Stewardship Saturdays (remove invasive species/clear vegetation/restore prairie habitats) and Native Nursery (maintain trails/grow native species/plant wildflowers and grasses/remove invasive species).
- Complete the Volunteer Application Form by accessing the website provided below.
- Online information at <https://www.coastalprairieconservancy.org/volunteer>

Hermann Park Conservancy

- Sign up to be a Volunteer – perform various tasks around the park such as weeding/mulching plant beds, restoring picnic tables/benches, planting/watering trees, removing invasive plants, and cleaning/repairing trails.
- Apply for the Job Shadowing Program – participants “shadow” staff members around the Park to help and learn what it takes to maintain the Park on a daily basis – open to students who are looking to gain valuable job skills.

- Complete the individual volunteer form by accessing the website provided below.
- Online information at <https://www.hermannpark.org/volunteering-opportunities/>

Houston Audubon

- Sign up to be a Sanctuary Steward Volunteer – monitor the sanctuary and answer any visitor questions all while enjoying the scenery!
- Sign up to be a Raptor Center Wednesday Maintenance Volunteer – tend to the gardens, weed and prune in the prairie habitat/wooded areas, maintain trails, repair infrastructure, clean the aviaries.
- Online information at: <https://houstonaudubon.org/ways-to-help/volunteer/>

Houston SPCA

- Apply to be a Volunteer – work with staff in one of four focus areas including: large dogs, small dogs, cattery, or small animals.
- Volunteers must be 16 years or older to participate. There is a fee of \$25 to apply if you are 18+ which includes a background screening and a T-shirt to wear while volunteering.
- Online information at: <https://houstonspca.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

Memorial Park Conservancy

- Sign up to be a Conservation Volunteer – work with plant horticulturists/conservation team to help maintain the park gardens, prairies, and grounds by pruning, seed collecting, planting, trash pick-up, and invasive species removal.
- Sign up to be a Greenhouse Grower – assist the nursery conservation team with projects in the native plant greenhouse and tree nursery such as transplanting growing plants, invasive weed removal, starting plants from seed, cleaning seeds, soil recycling, and more.
- Any volunteer 15 or younger must have an adult accompanying them to volunteer.
- Online information at: <https://www.memorialparkconservancy.org/support/volunteering/>

Nature Discovery Center

- Apply to be a School Break Camp Counselor - assist teachers with their lessons and help individual campers with crafts, projects, games, etc.
- Apply to be a Summer Service Camp Counselor – assist teachers with their lessons and help individual campers with crafts, projects, games, etc. – must attend a mandatory training. Meeting offered in May.
- Apply to participate in Summer Story Time – read themed books and assist preschoolers and their caregivers with simple crafts and/or songs and other activities.
- Online information at: <https://naturediscoverycenter.org/volunteer/teens/>

Wildlife Center of Texas

- Apply to be a Volunteer –work with staff to learn how to handle animals, prepare food, learn how to feed and clean the animals.
- Volunteers must be 16 years or older to participate.

- Online information at: <https://wildlifecenteroftexas.org/how-you-can-help/volunteer-2/>

Health

The Health Museum

- Sign up to be a Summer Youth Volunteer – assist staff with programming related to medicine, science, robotics, and sports.
- Sign up to be a Discovery Cart Volunteer – staff a mobile information station where museum guests can choose to briefly interact with a “real live” person inside the exhibits. Exhibits include a variety of models and demonstrations featuring the circulatory system, respiratory system, and general nutrition.
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- Online information at: <https://www.thehealthmuseum.org/content-page/volunteering-healthy>

Houston Methodist Hospital

- Apply to be a Volunteer – help staff in the areas of administration, patient/unit involvement, hospital greeting/hospitality.
- Online information at: <https://www.houstonmethodist.org/giving/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities/texas-medical-center/>

Medical Bridges

- Register to be a Volunteer - help staff by distributing medical equipment and supplies to underserved communities.
- Volunteers must be 18 years or older and have a received a COVID vaccine and show a COVID vaccination card at check in.
- Online information at: <https://www.medicalbridges.org/volunteer>

Project C.U.R.E

- Sign up to be an Individual Volunteer – sort and package medical supplies, stock donated medical supplies, prepare shipments, and load containers.
- Volunteers between the ages of 14 – 17 must have an adult with them to participate.
- Online information at: <https://projectcure.org/location/houston/>

Homelessness

The Beacon

- Sign up to be a Day Center Volunteer – prepare/serve meals, help with client intake, wash/dry/fold laundry.
- Online information at: <https://www.beaconhomeless.org/volunteer-with-us>

Habitat for Humanity

- Sign up to be a Volunteer – assist with a variety of tasks such as building new homes (must be 16 or older), working in the ReStore centers to sort/price/sell items, planting/weeding/harvesting in the community garden.
- Online information at: <https://www.houstonhabitat.org/volunteer/individual-volunteering/>

LOTS (Lord of the Streets)

- Sign up for Meal Team - prepare and/or package hot meals or sack lunches and snack packs or help distribute food and water
- Sign up for the Clothing & Hygiene Team - sort, size, and distribute requested clothing based on size and other preferences, and distribute hygiene items or kits
- Online information and registration at: <https://www.lotshouston.org/volunteer.html>

Star of Hope

- Star of Hope serves the needs of Houston's homeless men, women, and families, offering housing, meals, crisis services, and recovery programming.
- Volunteer to Serve a Meal – prepare veggies, make sack lunches, organize the pantry, or serve meals
- Online information at registration at: <https://www.sohmission.org/volunteer/becoming-a-volunteer/>

Hunger

Christian Community Service Center

- Register to be a Volunteer – assist with a variety of tasks such as working in the community garden harvesting produce, sorting through donations or creating emergency service kits including hygiene items such as shampoo, toothpaste, washcloths, and more.
- Register to be a Back To School Program Volunteer – assemble and distribute school supplies and clothing vouchers to families in need.
- Online information at: <https://ccschouston.org/support-ccsc/volunteer/volunteer-opprtunities/>

Houston Food Bank

- Register to be a Volunteer – sort, process, and pack food to create meals for those in need.
- Online information at: <https://www.houstonfoodbank.org/ways-to-give/give-time/>

Kid's Meals

- Sign up to be a Volunteer – assist in the kitchen to prepare sandwiches/snacks, in the packing room to assemble a lunch containing a protein, snack, fruit, and drink, or in the food prep area by sorting through donations and performing quality checks.
- Online information at: <https://kidsmealsinc.org/take-action/volunteer/>

Target Hunger

- Register to be a Warehouse Volunteer – sort and packing food to be delivered across the service area.
- Register to be an Education Food Fair Volunteer – assist with client intake, repackaging produce, and loading food into client’s car trunks.
- Register to be a Community Garden Volunteer – grow, maintain, and harvest produce to be distributed through the Target. Hunger programs.
- Online information at: <https://www.targethunger.org/volunteer>

Senior Citizens

Seven Acres Jewish Senior Care Services

- Summer Volunteers – lead Bingo and other games and help deliver mail to residents
- To learn more about volunteer possibilities, contact Jill Newman, Director of Life Enrichment and Volunteer Services, at 713-778-5782 or jnewman@sevenacres.org

St. Dominic Village

- St. Dominic Village is a senior care community in the medical center area, affiliated with the Catholic Church
- Volunteers must be 16 years old or have an accompanying adult
- Online application and information at: <https://www.volgistics.com/appform/1255793355>

Websites to search for other summer service ideas:

- <http://volunteerhouston.org> (in Houston)
- <https://www.teenlife.com/category/volunteer/volunteeropportunities-houston/>
- <https://serveforgood.org>

Another great website to check is Generation Serve’s: <https://calendar.generationserve.org/calendar/family-volunteering/202304/45>

Keep checking it during the summer. They post each month’s service projects on the 20th of the preceding month. There are “Family Volunteering” options (in-person, virtual, and serve-at-home activities), and “Teen Service Days.” June 1 starts their Summer Volunteer-a-thon. All youth who complete 12+ volunteer hours by August 7, 2023, earn a prize! No registration is necessary.