

PROSPECTIVE VOLUNTEER GUIDE



ABOUT US

Over 100 years of service, dedication, and compassion

Rooted in over a century's tradition of service to the community, the American Red Cross is one of the world's most renowned humanitarian organizations.

As the premier provider of relief services, Red Cross volunteers mobilize and respond when communities have the greatest need. We are a team of dedicated volunteers and employees whose mission is to provide relief to victims of disaster.

From national and international disasters to single family home fires, the American Red Cross is here to help people prevent, prepare, and respond to emergencies.



Mission Statement The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, will provide relief to victims of disaster and help people **prevent, prepare for, and respond** to emergencies.

Fundamental Principles

We affirm our commitment to the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement:

Humanity Mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Impartiality No discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions.

Neutrality In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence National Societies maintain their autonomy and act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary Service Volunteer relief efforts not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity One Red Cross/Red Crescent Society in any one country; open to all.

Universality The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

WE ARE ONE

Join the Movement

Across the country, down the street, and around the world the American Red Cross is where you are. With hundreds of locally supported chapters nationwide, more than 15 million people turn to the American Red Cross each year to learn how to prepare and respond to emergencies. Red Cross volunteers are the lifeline to provide vital services.

We strive to maintain a culture of inclusiveness. This means that volunteers work as staff to fulfill the mission of the Red Cross.



WHY RED CROSS?

What Moves Us

Volunteers are the life of the Red Cross. As an organization led by volunteer support, we create opportunities that will help our volunteers feel effective and rewarded. Regardless of your experience, you can find an opportunity where you can get involved.

By becoming a Red Cross volunteer, you can empower yourself, your family and your community to stand ready. Our five main lines of service include:

Disaster Response

Health & Safety

Blood Services

Service to the Armed Forces

International Services



YOU = VOLUNTEER

It Pays Off

By volunteering with the American Red Cross, you'll join a worldwide movement dedicated to providing relief to victims. Whether you're in career transition, a student looking for experience, work full-time, retired, or just have a few extra hours, you too can make a difference.

Learn New Skills Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills and reinforce current ones. By viewing our "opportunities" page, you can find the areas that best match your interest.

Strengthen Your Network Volunteering brings together people from all walks of life so you can diversify and broaden your network. Plus, you'll meet others who share your commitment to service.

Fill in Employment Gaps In career transition? Relocated to a new city? Looking for a career change? Being a volunteer is the perfect option if you're in between careers or transitioning into your next big move. You'll gain real life experience and have a title and role that you can use for your next gig in life.

Do Some Good Need we say more?



OPPORTUNITIES

Where You Fit

Opportunities exist in our five main lines of service and beyond. Here are areas where you can play a part.

[Disaster Response]

Disaster Response volunteers provide relief assistance to those affected by disasters. You can be on call to support late-breaking emergencies, manage a volunteer team, or lead a program in Disaster Response.

[Health & Safety]

Health & Safety volunteers may be certified CPR, First Aid and AED instructors. Volunteers also serve as classroom and course preparers, and provide administrative support.

[Blood Services]

Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. With half of the nation's blood supply collected by the Red Cross, you can be part of this critical initiative as a donor and volunteer.

[Service to the Armed Forces]

The Service to the Armed Forces program ensures that service members, veterans and their families have worldwide, around the clock access to timely and reliable humanitarian services.

[International Services]

International Services works at home and abroad to meet the needs of the world's most vulnerable communities with initiatives focused on disease prevention, restoration of families, and international disaster response and preparedness.



[Development]

The Red Cross depends on donations to provide relief to those who need it most. By volunteering in Development, individuals can assist in maintaining good relations with our donors.

[Communications]

We live in a digital world where information is just a smart phone away. Volunteers can assist in managing the Red Cross image with administrative duties, newsletter production and media relations.

[PrepareLA+ Preparedness Education]

Preparedness volunteers play an important role by providing free presentations to schools, neighborhood groups, community agencies and more to empower others to be prepared when disasters strike.

[Community Outreach]

Managing volunteers is an essential part of maintaining our services to the community. You can recruit new volunteers, perform data management and organize community outreach events.

[Youth and Young Adult Services]

Youth and Young Adult Services is a multifaceted program for those up to 24 years. Club members develop by learning organizational, presentation and teaching skills.



GETTING STARTED

If you're ready to JOIN THE TEAM, complete the steps below by visiting www.RedCrossLA.org/volunteers and click "Sign Up".

Basic Steps

Application

Give us the basics - name, address, and top areas of interest for volunteering.

Orientation

Learn more about us by watching our story online or attend an in-person orientation near you. Check the Volunteer Orientation Calendar for dates.

Background Check*

Request a background check. It's Free!

**Background checks are required. If your background check is not approved, you will receive an email. At this time, the Red Cross cannot accept unapproved background checks. Please contact us at volunteer@arcla.org if you have questions.*



Disaster Response Steps

If you are interested in Disaster Response, complete the Application, Orientation and Background Check. Additionally, you will need to complete the two steps below.

DSHR Application & Course

Download the Disaster Services Human Resources (DSHR) application. Complete and mail to your chapter office (“Attn: DSHR Coord.”) OR turn it in at the Disaster Services: An Overview course.

AFTER you complete the Basic plus Disaster Response Steps, a DSHR Coordinator will contact you.



FAQ

Q. How long does it take to become a volunteer?

A. After you complete the background check and receive an 'approval' status email from My Background Check, a Red Cross Representative will contact you to begin your volunteer service based on the area(s) of interest you specified on the application. You can be a Red Cross volunteer in as little as a few days.

Q. Why do I have to complete a background check to volunteer? How much does it cost?

A. Background checks have been an area of focus at the American Red Cross for many years. The Red Cross continues to reaffirm its accountability to the public and background checks are a part of that. Background checks are free to prospective volunteers.

Q. Where can I find out what volunteer opportunities exist?

A. Open volunteer opportunities are posted at www.RedCrossLA.org/volunteers under the "Volunteer Voice" tab. Volunteer Voice is the e-newsletter available to volunteers in the Los Angeles Region.

Q. How soon can I go overseas to volunteer after a disaster?

A. Criteria for volunteer deployment to national and international incidents vary based on the disaster. While there is no guarantee that you will be deployed on national and international incidents as a volunteer, the American Red Cross provides training to help you learn how to serve communities on many levels.

Q. Where can I find information about the American Red Cross Los Angeles Region?

A. To find information about the American Red Cross Los Angeles Region, visit www.RedCrossLA.org. For information on preparedness, please visit www.PrepareLA.org.

CONTACT US

If you have questions, feel free to contact us:

American Red Cross Los Angeles Region Volunteer Services

Call 1-866-548-8226

Click www.RedCrossLA.org/volunteers

Email volunteer@arcla.org

For information about becoming a Youth Volunteer, visit the Youth Services section at www.RedCrossLA.org/volunteers or email us at youthservices@arcla.org.



Thank you for your interest in the American Red Cross. We look forward to working with you.

Call 1.866.548.8226 **Click** www.RedCrossLA.org **Email** volunteer@arcla.org

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Antelope Valley

2715 East Ave.

Palmdale, CA 93550

661.267.0650

Arcadia

376 Huntington Dr.

Arcadia, CA 91007

626.447.2193

Claremont

2065 North Indian Hill Blvd.

Claremont, CA 91711

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Glendale-Crescenta Valley

1501 South Brand Blvd.

Glendale, CA 91204

818.243.3121

San Gabriel/Pomona Valley

430 Madeline Dr.

Pasadena, CA 91105

626.799.0841

Santa Monica

1450 11th St.

Santa Monica, CA 90401

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**American
Red Cross**
Los Angeles Region

www.RedCrossLA.org