

Advantages of Youth Volunteering

Volunteer work can be fulfilling for individuals of any age, but young people, especially, can benefit from volunteering at a number of organizations: nursing homes, museums, historical societies or with community groups. Teens who choose to participate in volunteer work usually acquire skills that otherwise might never have been developed. Whatever your situation is, it's worth volunteering.

1. _____

One of the most rewarding aspects of volunteering is the ability to get to know people from all walks of life. The types of people you can hope to meet through your volunteer work will depend on the organization you are looking to volunteer with. You will certainly get to know the people you're helping but you may also meet other (---9---) that have similar interests to your own. So meeting others and expanding your (---10---) might also give you a different outlook on life. Whatever you do, volunteering allows you to (---11---) your social life, become more knowledgeable and will also teach you to be more (---12---) towards those possibly different from you.

2. _____

If you already know what you want to do when you (---13---), it's worth volunteering with an organization that matches your interests. Even though you're not going to be paid, you are going to learn and take away life (---14---) from your experience that can help determine your (---15---) as an adult. For example, learning a new language, taking care of our environment, or being part of a service industry are all skills that are in (---16---) demand in our modern world. If you're ready to become an adult, what better way to set your path than by gathering experience?

3. _____

If you're going to be looking at volunteering as a way to secure your future, remember that volunteer work can look really good on your college application. In fact, you may even become eligible for certain scholarships as a result of the work you have done in the past. Colleges are not just looking at your exam results. By doing volunteer work it says that you're willing to donate your own time for others, and you are passionate about something. It suggests that you truly care about your community and the environment.

4. _____

Oftentimes, the organizations that ask for volunteers are ones that are often overlooked by the government or simply cannot afford to pay their employees. However, many of these organizations, such as conservation groups, make a big difference to society and deserve to be supported. If you're looking to make a difference in your community and later on, in our world, there is no better time to start than when you're a teenager. Participating in volunteer work can give you a real sense of achievement while helping to make a mark on society too.

5. _____

Some teens only spend time with a close circle of friends but this can also lead to peer pressure and having very narrow views on life. So volunteering is a great way to make a difference and broaden your horizons. Volunteer work can make you a more mature, well-rounded person. There's nothing quite as beautiful as dedicating yourself to a good cause. Many adults who have volunteered as teens feel that it benefitted them greatly in later life.

READING COMPREHENSION:

I. Read the text "Advantages of Youth Volunteering". In the text the paragraph headings 1 to 5 are missing. Write the correct heading (A to J) from the list below for each paragraph.

A. A variety of choices	B. Gain wider perspectives
C. Make a practical difference	D. Get to know people from different backgrounds
E. Learn life skills	F. Universities favour the socially committed
G. Be a dreamer	H. Limit your choices
I. Payment issues	J. Peer pressure

II. Read the opening paragraph and answer the following questions.

6. Which word is closest in meaning to "**satisfying**"?

7. What is the most important benefit of volunteering?

8. Which word is closest in meaning to "**it does not matter**"?

III. Read the paragraphs 1 and 2. Which words go in the gaps 9 to 16? Choose the words from the list and write them in the spaces provided.

advantages - career - expenses - expand - graduate - high - horizons - locals - maximize
- skills - universal - sympathetic - volunteers - willing

9. _____

13. _____

10. _____

14. _____

11. _____

15. _____

12. _____

16. _____

17. Read paragraphs 3 and 4 and then read statements A to H. Identify the four statements that are correct.

- a) Colleges insist on experience as a volunteer for entry to certain courses.
- b) There are specific scholarships for former volunteers.
- c) Colleges do not only consider exam grades when selecting students.
- d) Experience as a volunteer shows you are committed to the world around you.
- e) Organizations that help others receive enough support from the government.
- f) It is best to start volunteering early in life.
- g) Volunteering leads to success in life.
- h) Volunteering can help you to make a difference

18 The main purpose of the text is to:

- A. narrate a story
- B. describe a job
- C. explain a problem
- D. argue a point of view

19 The intended audience for this text is probably:

- A. teachers
- B. parents
- C. volunteers
- D. students

20 The writer's point of view of volunteering is:

- A. balanced
- B. impersonal
- C. biased
- D. positive

21 The meaning of the text is:

- A. contradictory
- B. clear
- C. ambiguous
- D. perfect.