

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **Activity: A Good Volunteer**

**Use For:** Understanding Volunteering

**Time:** 20 minutes

**Materials:** Flip chart and markers or transparencies

**Description:** Participants identify the qualities of a good volunteer and compare them to those of a good friend or student, noting any similarities.

#### **Participant Objectives:**

Identify values that are important to them

Become aware that volunteering combines responsibility with caring

Make a decision to uphold this responsibility

Set standards for being a good volunteer

#### **Procedure:**

1. Explain that the point of the exercise is to determine what makes a good volunteer. Allowing one minute for each point, ask participants to jot down words that describe the qualities of
  - A good friend
  - A good student (or employee, depending on age of participants)
  - A good volunteer
2. Write one person's answers to item three (a good volunteer) on the flipchart. If other participants had answers that were not mentioned, add those too. Facilitate a discussion of these points:

Did anyone have answers for items 1 and 2 that are the same as those on the flipchart?

If so, why do they think that is? Discuss the responsibilities of volunteering and how it compares to the work place or the classroom.

If you will be volunteering as a group, this is a good opportunity to reinforce the importance of focusing on the volunteer activity and those being served, not the friends they are volunteering with!

Does everyone agree that all these things are important in volunteering?

Do all the participants feel able to make a commitment to be the best volunteer they can be?

3. Have participants add to their list of what makes a good volunteer; they could also create personal mission statements around the qualities that they think are most important. Have them read it before taking part in the volunteer activity.