

## Student Handout-Ideas to Get You Started

Before you get started, you may want to ask yourself a few questions that will help you pick the most interesting and rewarding experience.

1. How do I like to spend my time?
2. Do I enjoy working with people? things? ideas?
3. What types of people do I admire?
4. When am I available to volunteer? How many hours can I work each week without negative effects on my schoolwork and other commitments? Would I prefer to work a little bit each week or in larger blocks of time (during weekends, vacations, etc.)?

Now that you've answered the above questions, take a look at the suggestions listed below to see what activities might be a good match for your skills and interests. When you see something that interests you, talk to your teacher and parents about it. These are just suggestions. Feel free to develop an idea of your own, but make sure it meets with the approval of everyone involved.

### **EDUCATION/CIVIC AWARENESS**

- ◆ Tutor younger students
- ◆ Get involved in adult literacy efforts in your community
- ◆ Work on voter registration drives
- ◆ Tutor immigrants who will be taking the citizenship test
- ◆ Offer your computer skills to help someone at a local job training center
- ◆ Volunteer at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter

### **HEALTH**

- ◆ Work on a teen crisis hotline
- ◆ Get involved with D.A.R.E. or similar programs on drug/alcohol education
- ◆ Draw pictures or write stories for young children in local hospitals

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

- ◆ Form a neighborhood watch group with adults in your neighborhood
- ◆ Fight gang activity through awareness campaigns or by organizing positive events for young people in your community to participate in

### **RECREATION**

- ◆ Volunteer at a camp for underprivileged kids
- ◆ Organize a clean-up day at a local park or landscaping efforts at your school
- ◆ Volunteer to coach or work for Special Olympics