

Volunteer Youth Alliance

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Volunteer Youth Alliance?

Volunteer Youth Alliance or VYA is an organization that encourages youth to team up to assist area non-profit organizations with day-to-day operations and special projects. VYA was formed in 2024 and is expected to quickly enlist youth and offer them an opportunity to experience various community service outlets that will develop meaningful friendships, acceptance of responsibility and leadership skills.

What is the mission of VYA?

The goal is to engage youth in cross-generational and cross-cultural service experiences that enhance their life and work skills while benefiting the community and inspiring a lifetime ethic of volunteerism, leadership and service.

What are the goals of VYA?

Our five fundamental goals are:

1. Engage youth in compatible volunteer service that is both rewarding and educational.
2. Encourage cross-generational and cross-cultural working relationships.
3. Improve overall scholastic performance and scholarship opportunities for youth.
4. Promote a lifetime ethic of leadership and volunteerism in future adults.
5. Enhance the community and the lives of its residents.

Who manages the program?

The program is directed by a diverse eleven-person board of primarily Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) members, but including two student members. The program operates under the umbrella of the City of Alliance, just like RSVP.

Who is eligible for the program?

Youth from Box Butte and surrounding counties who are enrolled in Box Butte county schools (including parochial) or are home-schooled and who otherwise have an affiliation with Box Butte county organizations and churches are eligible for VYA activities. The goal is to include and develop marginal youth as well as honor students with the program offering second chances.

What are the age limits?

The program is intended for students in middle and high school (grades 5 to 12).

How many organizations are cooperating with VYA?

The goal is to include most of the organizations who have partnered with RSVP and hopefully even more. RSVP currently has agreements with more than 40 organizations or station partners.

What types of volunteer opportunities are available?

The expanding pool of opportunities will be as big as the imagination with each station partner usually offering multiple selections within their service area. The goal is to have a list that will appeal to the giftedness or interests of every youth involved. Youth will be able to participate in social service programs, culinary and food delivery, art and music activities, after-school programs, construction, animal care, agronomy, retail and finance, compassion and medical services, senior and student assistance, veterans programs, graphic design and computers, public safety, sporting and recreation events, recycling, community improvement and beautification and more!

How do youth register to become involved?

Youth must register online at vya.duplie.com. The online registration will require an email address and phone number. For youth using parent emails, ask about plus addressing that allows unique emails for each student.

Is parental consent required to be involved in VYA?

Parental consent to participate in the program is required for youth under the age of 18. A paper consent form will be sent to parents for a physical signature.

Is parental involvement expected?

Parental involvement in the day-to-day activities is not expected. This is intended to be a safe environment where youth can team up with community seniors and leaders allowing them to develop independence and learn about responsibilities. Parents are encouraged to communicate any concerns to the RSVP Director or any board member.

Is there training provided for the youth?

All youth will be required to attend a scheduled orientation before substantial participation in VYA. There will also be periodic personal and leadership training sessions for the benefit of the youth.

Is there a cost to be a part of VYA?

There are no fees to be a part of VYA. The initial cost of the program was funded with \$5,000 of ACE funds from the City of Alliance. There are no paid positions or other overhead. The budget includes allocations for the software and website (a company named Duplie) and participant insurance, t-shirts and recognition awards.

Is there special meaning in the name and logo?

Lots of special meanings are included in the logo. "Youth" is the central word in the name and that is at the center of the goals of the organization. "Volunteer" is at the first of the name as that represents the top focus of the group. "Alliance" does not refer to the city, but rather the alliance that creates the team work between youth, seniors and the community. And, of course, the red, white and blue flag colors signifying the patriotism aspect of the program and the gathering of stars representing the potential for each of our youth to shine.

