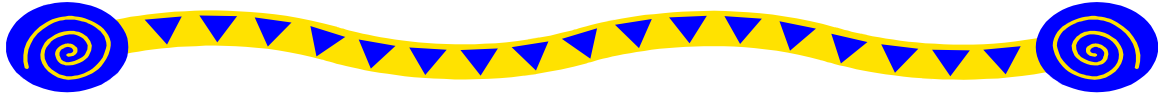


ISLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



We are providing this list as just an idea base for any student who is looking for ways to help his or her community and gain some experience. Our community is very generous and there are many opportunities that are available and we are sure that we have not captured all of them on our list. Nevertheless, there are some great ideas here that may help students become involved – we hope so!

ANIMALS:

Whidbey Animal Improvement Foundation (WAIF): This is a non-profit, volunteer-staffed organization on Whidbey Island which was formed in 1990 and is dedicated to helping homeless companion animals and developing programs to educate people to care for them with respect and compassion. It is supported by donations of time, money, materials and labor and through sales at the WIAF Thrift Shop at Harbor Village in Freeland. Volunteer Opportunities: Dog walking, kennel attendants, cat care, transportation, fund raising, crafts and baking, foster care, thrift shop workers, education, grooming, advertising, office work, adoption counseling, grounds keeping and maintenance. (360) 331-2818 Thrift Store, (360) 678-5816 Shelter.

Orca Network is dedicated to raising awareness about the whales of the Pacific NW, and the importance of providing them healthy and safe habitats. Projects include the Whale Sighting Network, education programs, and the “Free Lolita” campaign. For more information, visit www.orcanetwork.org. To report whale sightings, call 1-866-ORCANET or email info@orcanet.org.

Camano Animal Shelter Association PO Box 1726, Stanwood, WA 98292, (360) 387-1902, Open Tuesday – Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Closed Mondays. Donations gratefully accepted.

Pilchuck Wildlife Services: Sue Murphy, state and federal licensed wildlife technician and director. PO Box 625, Stanwood, WA 98292, (360) 387-8299.

ARTS:

Whidbey Island Center for the Arts: (WICA) is a non-profit arts organization. Contact WICA at email wicakm@whidbey.com, or call (360) 221-8268.

Whidbey Playhouse, 730 SE Midway Blvd., Oak Harbor (360) 679-2237. Email at playhouse@whidbey.net. Contact Janis Powell.

Camano Arts Association, an organization that aims to promote the arts, to encourage citizen participation, and to teach children an appreciation for aesthetics. PO Box 2530, Stanwood, WA 98292, (360) 387-7146.

Coupeville Festival Association: Organizes the Coupeville Arts and Crafts Festival. They are looking for volunteers who will help year-round, as well as volunteers who are interested in working one hour a year. They have given over a half million dollars back to the Coupeville community in grants and scholarships. P.O. Box 611, Coupeville, WA 98239, (360) 678-5116.

Stanwood-Camano Arts Guild: An association of artists and art enthusiasts in and around Stanwood and Camano Island, Washington, sharing ideas, resources, and energy. PO Box 778, Stanwood, WA 98292, (360) 387-7146.

COMMUNITY:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County volunteer experiences for all ages. They need mentors who will be matched up with kids between ages 6 to 14 who are willing to build a positive, caring friendship. They sponsor the Festival of Trees in December and Bowl for Kids Sake in April. Contact Michaela Marx Wheatley at SWHS, 221-6808, Ext. 5417 or mwheatley@sw.wednet.edu.

Deception Pass State Park has opportunities for volunteers including: camp host, weed removal, litter pickup, trail repair, minor construction, etc. Email at deception.pass@parks.wa.gov, or call (360) 675-2417, Ext. 31.

Good Cheer Food Bank and Thrift Stores has volunteer opportunities for people of all ages. Volunteers stock food bank shelves, check clients in and out, and assist with office work and special events. They also sort donated materials at the Bayview site and Langley thrift store. Call Rita Burns at 221-5464, Ext. 5, or ask any store manager for a volunteer registration form. Visit Good Cheer's website at www.goodcheer.org.

Sno-Isle Libraries: Welcomes volunteers of all ages and walks of life. Volunteers work to enrich our community libraries programs and services throughout Island County. Check at your local library or visit the website at www.sno-isle.org, or email at volunteer@sno-isle.org or call (360) 651-7003.

The Compassionate Friends of Whidbey Island: A self-help group offering support and friendship for families grieving the death of a child, meeting the 4th Tuesday every month at 7 p.m. at the Coupeville Methodist Church, 608 N. Main St., Coupeville, WA. For further information please call 675-6424 or email at tcf.whidbey@usa.net.

Hearts and Hammers is an annual one-day blitz to repair and rehabilitate the homes of those physically or financially unable to do so alone. It began in 1994 as a pilot project under the sponsorship of Langley United Methodist Church. Hearts and Hammers is now an independent, non-profit program that is supported by the larger community, including churches, schools, service and community organizations, businesses and individuals. Volunteer opportunities: babysitting, cooking, gardening, driving, carpentry, electrical, plumbing. Contact Richard Merrill at (360) 579-7469.

Helping Hands of South Whidbey: a private non-profit service totally volunteer operated providing services to South Whidbey residents. 816 Camano Avenue, Langley, or call (360) 221-7777.

H.O.P.E.: Horsemanship opportunities for potential equestrians offers therapeutic horseback riding for children, adults and families who are facing special challenges, including but not limited to: disabilities (physical, mental); crisis (family separation); trauma (abuse); injury recovery. Lessons take place on Tuesdays at the Island County Fairgrounds in Langley and on Thursdays in Oak Harbor. Volunteers are also needed to “take the lead and lend a hand.” For more information call (360) 221-7656, or email hope@whidbey.com, or visit their website at www.hope-whidbey.org.

Summer Hill Retirement Community: In need of volunteers for the Activities Department. Help with decorating, carrying out ongoing activities and helping to develop new ones. Volunteers can go along on outings to lunch or trips to festivities throughout the community. Some office work is involved. Contact activities director at (360) 678-1400.

Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens: Volunteers to help prune plantings and to care for the gardens. Volunteers meet at the gardens on the second Saturday of each month at 8:45 a.m. To join them, call (360) 678-1912 or email for information at meerkerk@whidbey.net.

The Whidbey General Hospital Auxiliary: A myriad of volunteer opportunities that run the gamut from visitor/clerical assistance, to gift shop sales. All volunteers at the hospital must undergo volunteer training. Must be over 18 and submit to a Washington State Patrol Background Check. Contact Sally Fox at Whidbey General Hospital Volunteer Services (360) 678-07656, Ext. 3246.

American Cancer Society: Many volunteer opportunities available with Relay for Life. These events happen every year in Stanwood, Oak Harbor, and South Whidbey. For more information, call the American Cancer Society office in Everett at 1-800-729-5588, Option 3, or visit www.cancer.org.

Habitat for Humanity of Island County: A nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry, seeking to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world,

and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need. For information please call (360) 679-9444, or go to http://www.islandcountyhabitat.org/index.php?pageID+6275_2, and follow the directions for VolunteerUP. Volunteer opportunities exist for office support, retail, construction, and family support. No experience is required.

South Whidbey AmeriCorps: Working to bring together resources for the entire community with special focus on the schools. wbalck@sw.wednet.edu.

Veterans Memorial Committee of Island County: An organization dedicated to the sole purpose of causing a memorial to be placed within the Law and Justice Center in Coupeville to honor the men and women of the armed services of the USA. ethridge@whidbey.net.

North Whidbey Lions Club: You may choose to volunteer for a variety of activities, including: North Whidbey Annual Car Show, Cell Phone Recycle, Food Collection and Funds for Help House, Oak Harbor Marathon Rest Station, Roadside Cleanup, Operation Porchlight. Contact: P.O. Box 114, Oak Harbor, WA 98277, Richard Mack at whidbeymack@comcast.net.

FIRE AND RESCUE

Central Whidbey Fire and Rescue
1164 Race Road, Coupeville, WA 98239
(360) 678-3602

Fire District #2
2720 N. Heller Rd., Oak Harbor, WA 98277
(360) 675-1131

South Whidbey Fire and Rescue
Fire District #3
5535 Cameron Rd., Freeland, WA 98249
(360) 321-1533

City of Oak Harbor Fire Department
855 E. Whidbey Ave., Oak Harbor, WA 98277
(360) 279-4700

ENVIRONMENT

W.E.A.N.: Whidbey Environmental Action Network is a tax exempt non-profit advocacy group dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the native biological diversity of Whidbey Island and the Pacific Northwest. Volunteers are needed to help research County records for ongoing legal actions to force Island

County to comply with the Growth Management Act. They will train volunteers. Contact WEAN at wean@whidbey.net, (360) 579-4202.

WSU Beachwatchers: They do baseline monitoring of 21 Island county beaches and run ships naturalist programs on local ferries. They also put on the Coupeville Water Festival and staff and keep open the Admiralty Head Lighthouse. Every January they host the Sound Waters environmental workshops. They devote thousands of hours each year to educating the public about shoreline and island watershed processes. Contact Jan Holmes at jholmes@whidbey.net.

Whidbey Watershed Stewards: Some of their projects include: teaching students at the Maxwellton Outdoor Classroom, creekside restoration projects, smelt counts, native plant classes, etc. Contact: WWS. info@whidbeywatersheds.org.

POLITICAL ACTION:

League of Women Voters of Whidbey Island: This is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Contact at P.O. Box 1933, Oak Harbor, WA 98277, Emily Ramsey (360) 678-8707.

SENIOR CITIZENS:

Senior Services of Island County: A nonprofit corporation and a United Way agency. The mission of SSIC is on behalf of older persons to provide services and resources that improve their well-being, promote personal independence and facilitate their participation in the life and affairs of the community. Volunteers are needed for the following activities:

Meals on Wheels

Community Thrift Store – a variety of jobs

Contact: volunteer@islandseniorservices.org

Regency on Whidbey Retirement Community: has opportunities to share your talents and interests with some of the most gracious and experienced people on Whidbey Island.....seniors. Contact Heidi at (360) 279-0933