

Krizhna Bayudan  
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### **How to Inspire Fellow Students to Volunteer**

“We know what we are, but know not what we may be.” - William Shakespeare. Life is all about making choices. Students never know their full capability and highest potential unless they try and take chances. Frankly, I hear lame excuses on why one may not be able to volunteer but the real question is, why should YOU volunteer?

Inspiring students to volunteer may be tough, but very possible. One way to inspire a student is to align their daily struggles and burdens to the advocacy of volunteering. For example, if a student is low in their self-esteem you can tell them volunteering can definitely develop healthier self-confidence. Volunteering is all about doing good for others and the community without pay, which results in an impression of personal accomplishment and fulfillment. Being able to accomplish something feels satisfying, most especially when doing something for others, rather than yourself. This satisfaction cannot be bought!

Another great alternative to spark motivation for students to volunteer is to help them correlate their interests and skills to a specific volunteering activity. For instance, if a student is skilled in the arts and is very creative, they could find a suitable position for their passion such as organizing an arts and crafts session for an orphanage. Connecting a student's interests to a relevant cause is very beneficial considering the student is contributing to a cause by doing something they're familiar with.

From personal experience, volunteering genuinely makes me feel helpful and selfless. I feel like I am important and I feel that it has helped me develop a better and more passionate soul. I have developed interpersonal skills when I volunteered for the Maui Adult Day Care

Center as well as making leis with the Honolua Senior Center. I also volunteer to tutor 4th graders in my local area and it has helped me expand my skills interacting with children. It has definitely boosted my self-esteem over the years and I am happy to have volunteered for certain causes and I will continue to volunteer as much as possible.

Finally, show students what it's like to volunteer. Show them the strong personality you develop from it. Show them how experienced you are and yet you challenge yourself by volunteering. Show them that you can build up skills and gain work experience at the same time. Show them that you meet new people and can possibly create a professional network. Show them that you have higher odds of finding a job. Show them that the pleasure in life is not with receiving, but giving. Teach them to be open minded about volunteering.

You never know unless you try, maybe volunteering will be a passion of yours. Volunteering can offer a sense of purpose and allows students to care for and educate others outside of their immediate circle. Volunteering can really make a difference not only in your life, but others also.