Youth and Education Programs

The DC Metropolitan Area has a number of grassroots organizations that work with youth. Some serve young people, others are youth development groups. For more information about each organization, please visit their websites.

We Recommend...

DC Reads*
Make a difference in a child’s life! Become a DC Reads Tutor. The program has worked to improve the historically low literacy rates in our nation’s capital. DC Reads supports after-school enrichment programs for at-risk District youth. The collaboration consists of several community-based organizations united under one goal of youth literacy. They include: MOMIE’s TLC, Life Pieces to Masterpieces, Latin American Youth Center, Higher Achievement Program, Reading Partners, Latino Student Fund, SOUL, and CentroNia. This can be a volunteer, service-learning or Federal Work Study position.

Contact: Robin Adams (202) 885-7378 / dcreads@american.edu / www.american.edu/dcreads

21st Century School Fund
21CSF is dedicated to building the public will and capacity to modernize public school facilities so they support high quality education and community revitalization. Programs include Research & Communication, Community Engagement & Government Reform and Technical Assistance & Collaboration.

Contact: (202) 745-3745 / info@21csf.org / www.21csf.org
Thurgood Marshall Center: 1816 12th St. NW, 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20009

Barker Foundation
The Barker Foundation, a non-profit adoption agency based in DC, Maryland and Virginia, seeks volunteers to work in its downtown Bethesda office. Volunteers have the opportunity to learn about domestic and international adoption and assist program staff in serving children and families. They can help do community outreach, event planning, and adoption related research. All volunteer positions include some general office support: filing, answering the phones, and data entry. Volunteers must commit to at least five hours of work per week. The Foundation is located within blocks of the Bethesda Metro Station.

Contact: Sue Hollar (301) 664-9664 / shollar@barkerfoundation.org / www.barkerfoundation.org
7979 Old Georgetown Rd, 1st Floor, Bethesda, MD 20814

Brainfood
Brainfood is a non-profit youth development organization in Washington, DC. Using food as a tool, Brainfood builds life skills and promotes healthy living in a fun and safe environment. Volunteers can help in classroom settings, special events, and the kitchen.

Contact: Nina (202) 615-6182 / nina@brain-food.org / www.brain-food.org
Columbia Heights 1525 Newton Street, NW / Chinatown 755 8th St. NW / Mt. Vernon Sq 900 Mass. Ave

Bright Beginnings, Inc.
Bright Beginnings is a child and family development center that offers a bright start for homeless infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and their families. It serves about 186 children annually whose families are living in crisis shelters or transitional

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housing. The center needs volunteers to assist as classroom volunteers, to help maintain a positive environment, assist the classroom staff to implement daily activities, and support the children to master key skills needed for educational achievement.  
**Contact:** Whitney Faison wfaison@brightbeginningsinc.org / (202) 842-9090 / www.brightbeginningsinc.org  
128 M St, NW Washington, DC 20001

**City Kids**  
City Kids Wilderness Project is a nonprofit outdoor education program for underserved and at-risk inner-city youths (ages 12 to 24) from the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The program focuses on experiential learning, joins youth and staff in a cooperative family atmosphere, and utilizes the outdoor, natural environment as a classroom for academic, recreational and life skills. City Kids Wilderness Project is in need of volunteers to assist with afterschool lessons and activities. Volunteers needed for weekend adventure trips, fundraising, office projects, and daily programming.  
**Contact:** Charlotte Henderson / charlotte@citykidsdc.org /(202)-525-4930 / www.citykidsdc.org  
2437 15th Street NW

**Communities in Schools**  
Communities in Schools is a nationwide network of passionate professionals working in public schools to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. Communities in Schools of the Nation’s Capital began in 2003 when a group of community leaders committed to children, youth, and families formed a task force and determined the need to develop a new organization that would join the CIS network.  
**Contact:** Andrea Brown / 202-333-2277 / abrown@cisnationscapital.org  
3121 South Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007

**Community of Hope, Inc.**  
Community of Hope provides services in the following areas: housing for homeless families, health care for uninsured and low-income families, and after-school enrichment for children. Volunteers can help out with childcare when parents are in life skills classes, offer computer lab assistance, support young people with literacy-based enrichment activities, or become mentors.  
**Contact:** volunteer@cohdc.org / (202) 407-7747 / www.communityofhopedc.org  
1413 Girard Street NW Washington, DC 20009 / 2250 Champlain St NW, Washington, DC 20009 / others

**Critical Exposure**  
Critical Exposure teaches youth to use the power of photography and their own voices to become effective advocates for school reform and social change. By empowering young people to develop skills as documentary photographers and advocates, Critical Exposure exposes citizens and policymakers to the reality of inadequate schools and low-income communities through the eyes of the youth who confront those realities every day.  
**Contact:** (202) 745-3745 x20 / www.criticalexposure.org  
1816 12th Street Northwest, Washington, DC

**Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center (CYOC)**  
CYOC’s Identity program provides programs for Latino youth in Montgomery County, Maryland to help them achieve a sense of confidence, connection, and control over their lives. Their goal is to reduce social and cultural barriers that hamper Latino youths’ ability to participate fully in society’s benefits and responsibilities.  
**Contact:** (301) 422-1270 / info@identity-youth.org / www.identity-youth.org  
7676 New Hampshire Avenue, #411, Takoma Park, MD 20912

**DC Scores**  
DC SCORES bridges the academic and athletic development of youth by providing them with creative writing and soccer activities each day after-school for five weeks during the summer. Beginning with only 5 schools in 1994, DC SCORES has quickly expanded to 21 participating schools within the District. Operating in Wards 1, 4, 5, 7 and 8, DC SCORES has worked with more than 3000 8-12 year olds and over 300 coaches and writing instructors in the D. C. Public Schools.  
**Contact:** Sean Hinkle (202) 393-6999x301 / volunteerdc@americascores.org / www.americascores.org/affiliates/dc  
1224 M Street NW, Suite 200

**District of Columbia International (DCI) School**  
DCI is a cooperative, collaborative school founded by 5 language immersion public charter schools. The 5 DCI member schools are DC Bilingual Public Charter School, Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School, Latin

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American Montessori Bilingual Public Charter School, Mundo Verde Bilingual Public Charter School, Washington Yu Ying Public Charter School. These schools have amended their charters to include a secondary program (grades 6-12) at a new educational campus.

**Contact:** Andrew Molchan / 202-459-4790/andrew.molchany@dciinternationalschool.org/ 3220 16TH St. NW Washington DC 20010 (H2, H3, H4 buses)

**Fihankra Akoma Ntoaso (FAN)**
FAN’s goal is to bring a Positive Youth Development perspective to DC youth in foster care that provides young people with formal and informal opportunities to nurture their interests and talents, acquire new skills, and gain a sense of personal and group recognition in an atmosphere of hope.

**Contact:** (202) 379-3080 / info@fan-dc.org / www.fan-dc.org 1812 Erie St, SE, Washington DC 20020

**The Fishing School**
By providing academic out-of-school time programs, TFS is changing generations and empowering youth to become responsible stewards of their future. Since 1990, The Fishing School has served as a safe haven and offered academic programs to more than 3,000 young people and their families in Washington, D.C. Through out-of-school time programming, TFS provides education instruction, mentoring, leadership development, test preparation and life skills training.

**Contact:** Ms. Quincy Moody 202-399-3618 / qmoody@fishingschool.org / www.fishingschool.org 4737 Meade St. NE, Washington, DC 20019

**For Love of Children**
Nearly 75% of DC students perform at or below basic levels in reading and math. For Love of Children’s one-on-one tutoring program helps students achieve grade-level competency in reading and math. Each new tutor impacts the life of one more child. FLOC offers training and ongoing professional support, so no experience is necessary. Tutors need patience, creativity, flexibility, fluency in English, a sense of humor and the ability to commit to 2.5 hours of tutoring a week during weekday afternoons, weekday evenings, and Saturdays.

**Contact:** Elizabeth Metz (202) 349-3512 / emetz@floc.org / www.floc.org (click “volunteer” for online application) 1763 Columbia Rd, NW Washington, DC 20009

**Girls Rock! DC**
Utilizes music education to create a supportive, inclusive and creative space for girls to develop their self-confidence, build community, stand up and rock out!

**Contact:** (202) 681-7625 / volunteer@girlsrockdc.org / www.girlsrockdc.org / 1525 Newton St. NW

**Hope and a Home**
Hope and a Home program assist families by offering low cost housing, advocacy, career development, after school activities and childcare. Volunteers can organize special activities for children, provide childcare for monthly meetings, observe students in classrooms, tutor students one-on-one, or assist with the development of activities for teen workshops.

**Contact:** Rosa Mooten (202) 387-7091 x500 / rmooten@hopeandahome.org / www.hopeandahome.org 1439 R St, NW Washington, DC 20009

**The Homeless Children’s Playtime Project**
This project’s mission is to nurture healthy child development and reduce the effects of trauma among children living in temporary housing programs in the District of Columbia. Volunteers provide weekly activities, healthy snacks, and opportunities to play and learn for the children at emergency shelter and transitional housing sites in the District of Columbia. In the past eight years, 600 volunteers have served more than 1,000 children at eight playtime sites throughout the city.

**Contact:** (202) 329-4481 / info@playtimeproject.org / www.playtimeproject.org 1525 Newton St. NW

**Horton’s Kids**
This organization is looking for dedicated volunteers to tutor and mentor children, grades K through 12. Horton’s Kids is a community-based organization that serves 500 children, living in an isolated neighborhood called Wellington Park in Washington, DC's Ward 8. Horton's Kids' mission is to empower at-risk children and prepare them for successful and healthy lives through educational opportunities and comprehensive programs tailored to their needs. Horton’s Kids provides a
holistic, research-based continuum of academic, enrichment, and basic needs supports designed to empower children to succeed. Sign-up to make a difference today!

**Contact:** (202)-407-3048 Kevin Stewart / kevin@hortonkids.org /www.hortonkids.org / 100 Maryland Ave, NE, Suite 520, Washington, DC 20002

**Jubilee Youth Services**

JYS is an after school enrichment program in the Adam's Morgan neighborhood, under the hospice of Jubilee Housing, Inc., which provides quality affordable housing to low income families and individuals in the District. JYS is a free after school program to Jubilee Housing residents and families living in the Columbia Height's/Adam's Morgan community. All the children are people of color and most come from immigrant families. Children work on many different math and reading levels. Math tutors as well as reading tutors are highly desired to work with our emergent, early, and transitional readers.

**Contact:** Chene Byrd / (202) 797-0026 / cbyrd@jubileehousing.org / www.jubileehousing.org
1640 Columbia Rd. NW, Washington, DC 20009

**JumpStart**

Jumpstart is a national early education organization that recruits and trains college students and community Corps members to serve preschool children in low-income neighborhoods. Their proven curriculum helps children develop the language and literacy skills they need to be ready for school, setting them on a path to close the achievement gap before it is too late. Jumpstart DC at American University recruits students from all majors and backgrounds. Jumpstart is a one year program in which students are able to earn Federal Work Study ($10 per hour), academic credit, and an AmeriCorps Education Award (valued at up to $1250).

**Contact:** (202) 885-3163 / www.jstart.org
Transportation provided to sites throughout DC

**KEEN (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now)**

KEEN is a national, nonprofit volunteer-led organization that provides one-to-one recreational opportunities for children and young adults with developmental and physical disabilities at no cost to their families and caregivers. KEEN's mission is to foster the self-esteem, confidence, skills and talents of its athletes through non-competitive activities, allowing young people facing even the most significant challenges to meet their individual goals. Volunteer opportunities take place at St. Coletta School (SE) on Saturdays from 12-3pm, accessible via the Stadium-Armory Metro.

**Contact:** Elizabeth Doherty (301) 770-3200 / Dev.Dir@keengreaterdc.org / www.keengreaterdc.org

**Latin American Montessori Bilingual School (LAMB)**

LAMB was founded by the Latin American Youth Center. Work with kids the way you want to! At LAMB volunteers can tutor, work in office administration, work with students with special needs, or decide on their own plan.

**Contact:** Ernest Yombo (202) 726-6200/ yombo@lambpcs.org / www.lambpcs.org
1375 Missouri Avenue Washington, DC 20011

**Latino Student Fund (LSF)**

The LSF is looking for volunteers to work with its program at Cardozo Education Campus in NW DC. If you would like to tutor and mentor immigrant youth (majority are Latino but not all) as well as support a college prep program, they have slots four days a week. LSF’s needs volunteers Mondays – Thursdays at Cardozo Education Campus from 4:30PM – 6:00PM. A minimum of one day is required for all volunteers. You can tutor and support a 9th or 10th grade student. Cardozo’s International Academy is unique in the city and is geared towards success for recent immigrants, English language learners, and those whose families may have immigrated years back. Requires a TB test (offered at AU Health Center), an online application, and fingerprinting which is needed for all DC Public School settings. LSF can guide you through the process.

**Contact:** Alex Hitch (202) 244-3438 / ahitch@latinostudentfund.org /http://www.latinostudentfund.org/
Cardozo Education Campus, 1200 Clifton St. NW Washington DC 20009
(H2, 3, 4, or 96 buses or Columbia Hts or U ST Metro stops)

**Little Lights Urban Ministries**

Little Lights Urban Ministries provides educational, musical and religious after-school programs for students K-12th grade. At the Reading and Math Heroes program, volunteers help students practice basic reading and math skills through one-on-one tutoring. Research has overwhelming shown the single most important factor separating excellent readers from poor readers is whether or not they have a caring adult who reads with them. Tutors are paired with the same child for an entire semester (or year). Lesson plans, additional resources, and activities are provided.

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Sitar Center for the Arts
This Center is a community arts organization offering after-school, Saturday, and summer arts education programs to residents of the Adams Morgan, Mount Pleasant, and Columbia Heights neighborhoods. The Sitar Center currently serves over 200 students in the areas of music, dance, drama, writing, and visual art. The programs are accessible and affordable to the youth in the neighborhood.

Contact: A. Lorraine Robinson (202)797-2145 x107 / lorraine@sitarartscenter.org / www.sitarartscenter.org
1700 Kalorama Road NW #101 Washington, DC 20009

Rosemount Center
Rosemount Center’s mission is to prepare children and families for their future by providing comprehensive early childhood education and family support programs in a bilingual multicultural setting. Rosemount Center serves pregnant mothers, infants, toddlers and pre-school aged children and their families in our center and home based programs.

Contact: Katherine Bittner / 202-265-9885 x133 / www.rosemountcenter.com
2000 Rosemount Ave NW, Washington, DC 20010

Sasha Bruce Youthwork
Sasha Bruce Youthwork (SBY) delivers comprehensive services to meet the urgent needs of at-risk youth and their families and is a key provider of youth and family services in Washington, D.C. and the surrounding community. As a private, non-profit agency, SBY offers unique programs designed to provide a wide-range of services to young people and their families.

Contact: George Burton / gwburton@sashabruce.org / (202) 675-9340 / www.sashabruce.org
741 8th Street, SE Washington, DC 20003

Spanish Education Development Center (SED)
The SED Center, founded in 1971, was the first bilingual preschool in Washington, DC. The SED Center developed bilingual infant and preschool programs for children ages three months to four years old and a high quality adult education program that includes English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), computer training, and GED classes. They help families take full advantage of all the social, educational, and economic opportunities available to them. Programs reinforce positive interactions, the celebration of cultural and linguistic differences, and the enhancement of bilingualism and multiculturalism.

Online is a volunteer application. They also offer internships in art, dance, music, sign language, communications and development. For internships, contact Sebastian Roa at juanroa@sedcenter.org. For service-learning contact Doris Ruano.

Contact: Doris Ruano / dorisruano@sedcenter.org / (202) 722-4404 ex:108/www.sedcenter.org
4110 Kansas Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20542

Sports for Sharing
Sports for Sharing is a civic education program that forms better citizens from childhood through sports and games. By encouraging children ages 6 to 12 to participate in their community, and to become change agents at a local level, we believe that they can transform their world: local action triggers global effects. This projects their role as holders of rights and obligations to develop relations of mutual respect and tackle shared problems to promote social understanding. Their comprehensive methodology incorporates teachers, families and professional athletes in the experience. Thus, children are able to improve the living conditions of their communities in different contexts, becoming vehicles of a profound social transformation.

Contact: Dana Mekler (305) 343-3237 / info@sportsforsharing.org / www.sports4sharing.org
641 S Street NW · Washington, DC. 20001

Teens Run DC
Teens Run DC empowers at-risk youth to envision and work towards the achievement of personal goals through an adult mentoring and distance running program. Students train alongside their running leaders and mentors, who guide these youth to develop the skills necessary to achieve their running and life goals. They learn greater responsibility, discipline, perseverance, and goal-setting skills as they train for distance races. They also become healthier and feel better about themselves and work towards success in running and school. Individual mentors who serve as positive role models and peers working towards similar goals, Teens Run DC strives to create a sense of belonging.

Contact: Ben Forman (301) 537-0009/ ben@teensrundc.org / www.teensrundc.org
2607 Bowen Road, Washington, DC 20020

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