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2025 Nebraska Volunteer Week Youth Service Grants

ServeNebraska, the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission is offering funding to organizations, schools, programs and institutions to develop, coordinate and implement small projects to engage Nebraska youth in volunteering during National/Nebraska Volunteer Week (April 20-26, 2025).

Research into the prevalence of volunteer service has shown that, while Nebraska is consistently among the top ten states for volunteerism, national levels of volunteerism have been on the decline. The goal of this mini-grant cycle is to provide an opportunity for Nebraska youth to try out service opportunities and, hopefully, instill a love of community service.

Your application should support Nebraska youth in local one-day or continuous projects with a service-learning component. Please submit a full application, including a detailed proposed budget and project description.

Applicants may apply for up to \$500 per grant.

Deadline: Friday, February 21, 2025 – Submit your application at www.serve.nebraska.gov/volunteer-week

Allowable use of funds: Use of funds is limited to direct programming needs. Allowable uses include project materials, transportation for participants, food and beverages, venue and material rentals. Funds may not be used to cover personnel costs. Projects may not use funds to engage volunteers in political activities, religious proselytization, or providing direct benefit to a for-profit business.

Selection Criteria: Projects should aim to engage young people in a way that links service with intentional learning goals. Strong applications will have the following characteristics:

- Be youth-led
- Have a substantive impact on youth participants
- Have a substantive impact on the community served
- Foster community partnerships
- Mobilize volunteers
- Engage diverse community members
- Involve media and public officials
- Celebrate and recognize service
- Inspire and sustain a commitment to service

Reporting: Following the completion of your Nebraska Volunteer Week project, you will need to provide ServeNebraska with photos from your project and complete a survey detailing service data such as the number of youth engaged and number of beneficiaries.