**“The Family that Volunteers Together...”**

Why should you volunteer as a family? With all the commitments, activities, and demands on your time, why add one more thing to your list? The simplest answer is this: “Volunteering is good for others... if people never help each other and only care about themselves, the world becomes a crueler, sadder place.” (PBS Kids, 2005). Volunteering as a family allows your children to see positive role models giving back to the community, allows your children to get involved and develop empathy for others who may not have the same resources as your family, and gives you a chance to spend time together as a family.

There is a litany of positive benefits that come from volunteering, including things like, “[m]aking new friends, gaining important skills and experience that will help you later in life, building confidence and self-esteem, getting active and healthier, relieving stress, and having fun” (PBS Kids, 2005). There are all sorts of ways to volunteer as a family. These can be as drastic as leaving everything behind and volunteering around the world for six months (as chronicled by John Marshall in the book *Wide-Open World*) or as simple as shoveling the sidewalk for a neighbor (*Ways to Help in Your Community* by Claire O’Neal). Volunteer opportunities are all around us. Many places have plenty of summer volunteers, but due to work and school schedules, lose volunteers in the fall. Fall and winter volunteering is a great opportunity for homeschool families who may have more flexibility during those seasons. Some local places with volunteer opportunities include Silver Key, Springs Rescue Mission, or the Salvation Army. Or you can choose a project in your community or neighborhood, perhaps even becoming “secret volunteers” who help others anonymously.

Here are some great library book resources for ideas to get started:

- **Ways to Help in Your Community** by Claire O’Neal
- **The Kid’s Guide to Service Projects** by Barbara A. Lewis
- **The Teen Guide to Global Action** by Barbara A. Lewis

For inspiration, check out these two books also available in the library:

- **Young Enough to Change the World** by Michael R. Connolly and Brie K. Goolbis
- **Wide-Open World** by John Marshall

Additional resources from PBSKids.org:

- **Volunteering: Why Should I do It?** tinyurl.com/PBSKidsVolunteering
- **Zoom into Action: Family Guide to Volunteering** tinyurl.com/PBSVolunteerGuide

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**Volunteering Booklist**

- **J-Fiction** (chapter books)
  - *The Family that Volunteers Together…*
  - *The Leaving Season*
  - *Even If the Sky Falls*
  - *The Berenstain Bears Think of Those in Need*
  - *The Kid's Guide to Service Projects*
  - *Young Enough to Change the World*
- **J-Fiction (series books)**
  - *The Berenstain Bears Tree House*
  - *The Berenstain Bears and the Smart Cookie*
  - *The Berenstain Bears and the Big Secret*
  - *The Berenstain Bears and the Berenstain Bears' Pizza Party*
- **J-Fiction (nonfiction)**
  - *How to Be a Better Builder*
  - *How to Be a Better Writer*
  - *How to Be a Better Reader*
  - *How to Be a Better Learner*
- **J-Fiction (nonfiction)**
  - *How to Be a Better Writer*
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  - *How to Be a Better Learner*
Solving the Puzzle under the Sea: Marie Tharp Maps the Ocean Floor
by Robert Burleigh (2016)
This great story is a prime reason to repeatedly check the kids biography shelves, and look for this type of book: a picture book biography. The ocean floor has not always been mapped. It was Marie Tharp, daughter of a mapmaker, who thought to map the bottom of the ocean.
Science, Biography, Animal Studies (ages 6 - 12)

Lynda.com is a high-level digital product for motivated beginners, tweens, teens and adults. Video instruction on a plethora of tech-type topics is available once you create your free account.
The main topics are photography, web development/programming/IT, documentaries (with many videos showing how other people have accomplished their creative goals), and business interests, such as Microsoft Office.
There is a search function that might find exactly what you are looking for, or perhaps a snippet of a bigger presentation that pertains to the search term you used.
Best uses for homeschoolers will probably be in the photography and web/IT type sections, as this ends up being similar to hiring an instructor for your older child. If you have a budding entrepreneur, then the documentary section may be a great instructional tool.
Recommended is the instructional video on using Lynda.com – “How to Use Lynda.com” – which is 87 minutes long. This is marked as a beginner course.

Homeschool Resource Fair
Visit with local organizations and learn how they can help you educate your children. Resources represented will include enrichment programs, scouting, lessons, field trip destinations, support groups, and so much more. Add it to your calendar today!
Fri., Aug. 11 • 9 a.m. - noon • Library 21c

Game Day
Join in playing outdoors with other homeschool families at our Game Day behind East Library in George Fellows Park. We’ll provide balls, jump ropes, chalk, bubbles, and ideas for some fun games, but we encourage you to bring your own games as well. All ages are welcome and teens are needed to help direct play. In case of bad weather, this event will be cancelled. Contact Joy at jfleishhacker@ppld.org or (719) 531-6333, x1407 with questions. Come prepared to play!
Fri., Aug. 25 • 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. • East Library (George Fellows Park)

Teen Programs

FREE! Curriculum Give & Take
Revitalize your family’s learning resources or start your homeschool library at our annual Curriculum Give & Take! Bring curriculum items you’re willing to share and find gently-used items other families are ready to part with. No money will be exchanged. Contact Joy at jfleishhacker@ppld.org or (719) 531-6333, x1407 if you plan on bringing curriculum to swap so we can reserve a table for you. Hope to see you there!
Thu., June 29 • 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. • East Library

Wolf Hollow
by Lauren Wells (2016)
First of all, this book is for teens and older. Set in rural Pennsylvania, 1943, it is about many things, what one says, believing in others, even if they are different from you, and trying to find the right thing to do. The reader is outraged when Annabelle is targeted for cruel treatment by another girl. I could not put the book down. Please read the book description before handing it to your child. Better still, read it yourself first.
Historical Fiction (ages 12+)

Rainforest Conservation
Travel deep into the jungle and learn about the animals that live there and why rain forests are important. Participants will be invited to interact with live animals from the rain forest and engage in various art projects and science activities in this informative and fun program. Registration required. Space is limited. Ages 7 - 18.
Thu., June 29 • 2 - 4 p.m. • Ruth Holley Library

Everything changed when night fell.

Teen Fiction Writing Contest
Submissions due Sun., June 25 • 11:59 p.m.

Bloxels Bootcamp
Spend a week at bootcamp learning to make your own video game using Bloxels!
Mon., July 24 - Fri., July 28
1 - 3 p.m. • Library 21c

Game Day
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