

Module 8: A Drive Through the Community

Topic 3 Application: Preparing to Volunteer Guide

After you have chosen a cause you feel passionate about, begin researching organizations that will help you make a difference in the lives of others. Follow the steps below to help you prepare to become a volunteer. Record information you find in the space provided below each set of instructions.

1. Choose an Organization

Do research on information about various organizations that support your chosen social issue. Try searching the Internet, or using school-based resources like a school counselor, bulletin board, flier, or clubs.

What organization did you choose?

2. Determine Information You Want to Provide to the Organization

Call or email the organization. Be prepared to answer the following questions:

- Why do you want to help?
- What special skills do you have that may help the cause?
- How much time do you want to spend volunteering (several hours per week, all month, or a season)?

3. Get Information about What the Organization Needs from You

When you reach out to the organization, ask your contact answers to the following questions:

- What will be expected of you?
- Will you need prior training or will the organization/individual provide it?
- Will you have to attend an orientation?
- Could you observe for a day to see if the volunteer activity is something to which you can commit?

4. Determine if this Organization is a Good Fit for You

Explain why you believe this organization is or is not a good fit for you. Do you plan to volunteer with them in the future? Why or why not?