



A Profile of the Average College Student Volunteer

"My generation is united in the belief that the choices we make now define our moral selves and determine the ethical character of the world we inhabit and leave to future generations, and this is why we serve."

-Katie Franck, Elon University student

Current research suggests an increased enthusiasm for service among college students. In 2005, the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) reported that two-thirds of entering college students believed it was very important to help others, which is the highest percentage in the last 25 years.

Not only do college students do "nice" things when they volunteer, they do necessary things to help build and improve our communities, especially in times of crisis. The Independent Sector valued volunteering at \$18.77 per hour in 2006. With college students volunteering more than 297 million hours that year (a total of \$5.6 billion) the value of and college student commitment to volunteering is greater than ever.

For many college student volunteers, volunteering is...

- A **"regular" habit**: 43 percent of college students who are volunteers engage in "regular" volunteering (volunteering 12 or more weeks a year with their main organization), according to research by the Corporation for National Community Service.
- **About helping others**: According to the 2006 Civic and Political Health of the Nation Survey (CIRCLE), regardless of the type of organizations young people volunteer for, the single most common reason cited for volunteering is, "to help other people."
- **A priority during hurricane relief efforts: More than 219,000** students provided **2.3 million** volunteer hours by providing Hurricane Katrina relief.
 - **20,000 college students** substituted work for fun during their winter and spring breaks by traveling to the Gulf Coast to gut homes, clear debris, repair roofs, and paint buildings
- **Examples of college-based efforts supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service include:**
 - **Tens of thousands of students** supported by Learn and Serve America raised funds and items needed for hurricane relief, assembled and distributed disaster relief kits, and traveled to the Gulf region to help in the recovery effort.
 - **Campus Compact**, a national coalition of more than 950 college and university presidents representing some 5 million students, account for more than \$4 billion of service, according to the Campus Compact Annual Survey.



continued

"Youth who volunteer are more likely to do well in school, graduate, vote, and be philanthropic." (UCLA/Higher Education Research Institute)

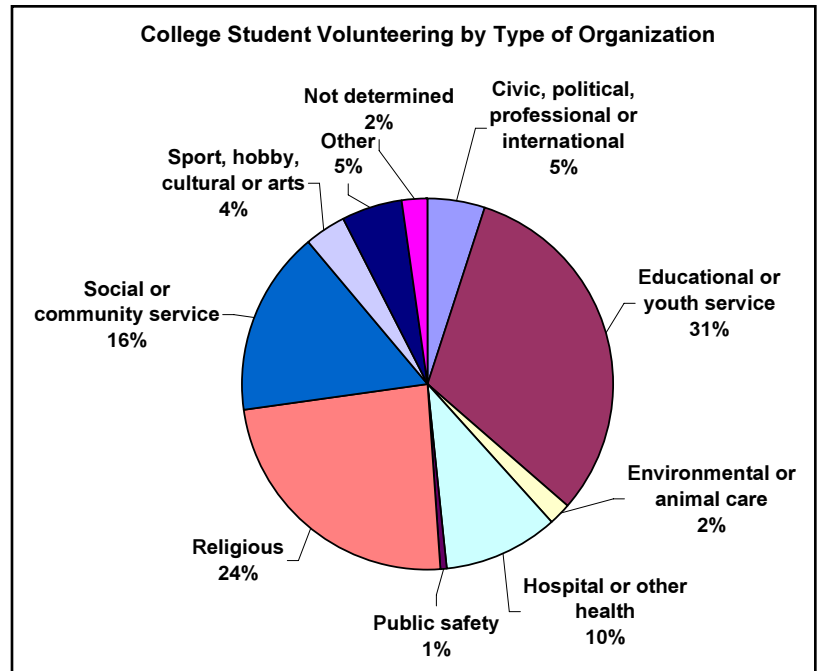
- **Ninety-eight percent** of campuses that sponsor Campus Compact programs offered service-learning courses, which combine academic community work, during the 2003-2004 academic year.
- **The number of campus service-learning partnerships is on the rise**, including alternative breaks (offered by 77% of campuses), residence hall programs (63%) and freshmen orientation projects (59%).

The average college student volunteer is...

- **Employed Part-Time:** A greater percentage of college students who work part-time volunteer, compared to students who do not work at all or who work full-time.
- **Female:** College students follow the national trend in volunteering, with females (29%) volunteering at a higher rate than males (25%).

The average college student volunteer prefers...

- **Tutoring and Mentoring:** Tutoring (27%) and mentoring (24%) are the most common volunteer activities among college volunteers.
- **Educational or Youth Service:** As expected, nearly a third (31%) of college students who volunteer serve with educational or youth services organizations, compared to about a quarter (26%) of the general adult volunteer population.



Regional and State Rankings for College Student Volunteering in 2006...

- Among all regions, the Midwest had the highest volunteer rate for all adults, college students, Baby Boomers, and older adults.
- Utah has the highest rate of college volunteers (55.4%) among all states, followed by Idaho and Oklahoma (48% and 45.2%).
- Virginia's college students provided a median of 68 hours of service per year, the highest median number of hours for this population in the nation.

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