



eVOLve

technical assistance for
leveraging volunteers

Dear Lori,

Welcome to **eVOLve: technical assistance for leveraging volunteers**. In this electronic technical assistance (eTA) brief, you will find tips and tools to help you leverage volunteers in your community. It is sponsored by Points of Light & Hands On Network, a training and technical assistance provider for the Corporation for National and Community Service.

This Month's Question

What are volunteer project leaders and how can they benefit my program or organization?

Quick Links

[The Resource Center](#)

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Ask Us

Do you have a question about working with volunteers? Send it to Points of Light & Hands On Network at:

training@pointsoflight.org

The Answer Corner

Volunteer project leaders (or "volunteer leaders") can greatly expand the work of your organization. With proper matching, training, and support, volunteer leaders can help you organize more projects, reach more people in the community, engage more volunteers, and achieve the mission of your organization.



A volunteer leader is a volunteer who

- Takes charge of a project by coordinating it and taking accountability for its successful completion
- Communicates the details of the project and serves as a resource for other volunteers
- Organizes, leads, and inspires a group of volunteers before, during, and after the project

May initiate new projects

- Represents your program or organization to other volunteers and to the community

Is a great volunteer a great volunteer leader? This is true often, but not always. When thinking about how you can engage volunteers in leadership roles, consider the skills and attributes those leaders will need. A strong volunteer leader should be:

- Committed
- Knowledgeable
- Credible
- Organized
- Responsible
- A "people person"
- An excellent communicator
- Someone who exemplifies your program's values

What skills can volunteer leaders bring to your organization? What skills can they gain through their service? These skills might include:

- Marketing
- Budgeting
- Project management
- Strategy development

Understanding your volunteers' skills and interests can strengthen your volunteer leadership efforts. It will help you recruit the "right" leaders, match them to the best service opportunities, and support them as they work in the community.

To learn more about planning for and working with volunteer leaders, visit the [Resource Center](#) or join our webinar "Community Volunteer Management: Moving from Good Intentions to Great Execution" at 3:00 on April 30. See *below for registration details*.

This material is adapted from "Community Volunteer Management: Quality Structure = Quality Program," a webinar facilitated by Points of Light & Hands On Network Leadership Faculty member David Warshaw on April 22, 2008.

Resources

Visit [The Resource Center](#) to learn more about working with volunteers. Find resources such as:

- [Effective Practices related to volunteer management](#)
- [Volunteer management online learning courses](#)
 - [Utilizing Volunteers as Project Leaders](#)
 - [Engaging College Students as Volunteer Leaders](#)

[Printed publications on volunteer management](#)

Also visit [VolunteerResource.org](#) for great volunteer management resources.

Points of Light & Hands On Network Training

Points of Light & Hands On Network provides training and technical assistance to help national service programs leverage volunteers. From live training and webinars to on-line courses and effective practices, we provide a wide

variety of resources for your program.

Join us for our upcoming webinar:

Community Volunteer Management - Extending Your Team, from Strategy to Execution

Community-minded organizations - national service programs, nonprofits, businesses with workplace volunteer programs, and others - all have more projects in mind than they have full-time staff to manage them. Using volunteers to lead other volunteers is a tested way to expand capacity to serve the community. This two-part webinar series will provide an overview of how volunteer project leaders can be recruited, trained and directed to meet your organization's mission objectives. *Please note that the first session in this series occurred on April 22. The sessions are related but are designed to stand independently.*

Part 2: Moving from Good Intentions to Great Execution (April 30 at 3:00 EDT)

Your volunteer strategy is sound. It's aligned to your organization's objectives. You have identified volunteer project leaders. But the heavy lifting of program implementation demands ongoing attention. Learn how to make sure projects move from planning to quality execution; techniques to gain meaningful publicity for projects so the light of success is not hidden under a bushel; and ways to thank volunteers and program partners to assure they serve with you again.

To register, go to <http://pointsoflight.webex.com>. Click on the "More Services" drop-down menu to access the "Training Center." Then click on the "Upcoming" tab and the name of the session. You will not need a password to register. After registering, you will receive an e-mail with log-in information for the session.

Contact Points of Light & Hands On Network or visit The Resource Center for more information about our training and technical assistance services.

The Urgency of NOW

2008 National Conference on Volunteering and Service

Registration is NOW live for the 2008 National Conference on Volunteering and Service. Join us June 1-3 in Atlanta, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. mapped an unforgettable path to modern social change -- and where today's leaders will gather to re-imagine, rebuild, and re-inspire a movement for service and engagement.

Conference highlights include:

- More than 175 workshops, forums, and immersion learning sessions
- Featured speakers including John Lewis, Neil Bush, Stephen Goldsmith, Sam Nunn, Isaac Farris, Jr and Dr. Sue Sehgal
- The birth of a new brand as Points of Light & Hands On Network launches its vision for a new century of change
- A new Advanced Institute on Volunteer Management
- Affordable registration beginning as low as \$300 for member organizations registering by April 30th

Visit www.volunteeringandservice.org today to learn more and register for the

conference. See you in Atlanta!



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