



Helping Students Climb

BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

- Strengthens campus-community collaboration
- Increases awareness of community needs and resources
- Deepens sense of citizenship and civic pride
- Reduces stress while building morale
- Fosters appreciation for what one possesses
- Creates feeling of self-esteem and self-worth

**Western
Carolina**
UNIVERSITY

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ENGAGING EMPLOYEES IN Community Service





ENGAGING EMPLOYEES IN **Community Service**

Community service is the engagement of individuals and groups in civic, social and educational activities that benefit the community beyond the campus. Volunteers provide service to the wider community without an expectation of monetary reward.

At Western Carolina University, students, faculty, staff and administrators value service to the community and regularly engage in volunteer activities that improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. WCU provides 24 hours of paid community service leave each year for each employee.



Connecting Campus and Community

Community Service Leave

As an institution, Western Carolina University encourages employees to engage in volunteer services in support of schools, nonprofit organizations and communities. Provisions for Community Service Leave are made in Policy #75 (July 2001):

Community Service Leave shall be available to all eligible SPA and EPA employees (permanent full-time and part-time employees with the latter being prorated) to encourage volunteerism in support of North Carolina's schools, communities, citizens and non-profit organizations. ... An eligible employee shall be awarded twenty-four (24) hours of Community Service Leave annually which may be used for volunteer participation in the programs, services and organizations indicated below, or they may elect to receive an award equivalent to one (1) hour each week that a public school is in session. The latter award is to be used exclusively for mentoring or tutoring students in North Carolina schools. ...

Employees may use all or part of their annual allotment of Community Service Leave to volunteer time in support of programs and services in public and private elementary, middle and high schools, and licensed public and private day care and pre-school settings. ...

Employees may use all or part of their annual 24-hour allotment of Community Service Leave to volunteer time in non-profit, non-partisan community organizations which are designated as 501(c)(3) agencies ... or human services organizations licensed or accredited to serve citizens with special needs including children, youth, and the elderly.

Volunteer for a Staff Senate Service Project

The WCU Staff Senate sponsors at least two community service projects, including a food drive, each academic year. Staff Senate service projects are organized in collaboration with the Center for Service Learning.

Participate in our Days of Service

One-day community service projects are implemented during Homecoming Week (October), Make a Difference Day (the fourth Saturday of October) and Martin Luther King Jr. Day (the third Monday of January). Other service opportunities include Mountain Heritage Day (the last Saturday of September), Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (the week before Thanksgiving) and Women's History Month (March). The WCU Relay for Life and Tuckaseegee River Cleanup (both in April) are additional opportunities.

Give our Community Partners a Helping Hand

The Center for Service Learning has more than 100 community partners – community-based organizations, nongovernmental organizations, nonprofit agencies, local governments and educational institutions. Community partners provide service sites such as childcare centers, community centers, emergency shelters, family support service centers, food banks, hospitals and health centers, human service agency offices, nursing homes, parks and recreation departments, schools, small businesses, soup kitchens, thrift shops and town/city halls.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
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