

THEME

Connectedness

SUB THEMES

Understanding Others

Overview

Volunteers play a huge role in our society. There are 41,000 people paid to work in sport in New Zealand, but 500,000 people volunteer.

Where do you find volunteers, what do they do, and why do they do it? Research on the SPARC website (www.sparc.org.nz) answers these questions.

In this learning activity participants consider:

- Groups that use volunteers
- Why people undertake volunteer roles
- How to encourage people to volunteer
- How to retain volunteers so they want to continue doing the job.

Stepping up to Volunteer

Knowledge and skills

Knowledge of others, developing empathy, service to others, group cohesion, group culture understanding, group dynamics, inclusiveness, relationship-building, conflict resolution.

Resources

- Leader Journal template

NAME _____

Stepping up to Volunteer

Define a Volunteer

In the thought bubble, jot down your definition of a volunteer:



DISCUSSION

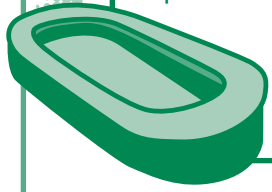
Share your ideas with others.
Were they similar or different?



Where to Volunteer

There are lots of places where people volunteer.
Look at the areas below and see how many groups
or organisations use volunteers.

Sport & Recreation



Education



Charities



Public Service

Arts and Theatre



Why Bother?

So, why do people volunteer? Two reasons are because:

- Of their belief in a particular cause
- They have a skill or a need and the organisation is a place where that skill can be used, or that need met.

In the table below, list all the reasons that you can think of for people volunteering and the skills they gain as a result.

Reasons for volunteering	Skills gained as a result
e.g. belief that my sport is the best	e.g. gain work experience



Retaining

Once volunteers have the skills, what suggestions would you give an organisation on how to keep young volunteers?

(Note: paying them is not an option as they wouldn't be volunteers any more.)

