

YOUTHWIRE

— Impact Starts Here —



American
Red Cross

Youth & Young Adults

INSPIRATION THROUGH SERVICE

September 2023

Latest from Youth Leaders



September is National Preparedness Month! During September, the American Red Cross aims to raise awareness among individuals about the importance of being prepared for disasters and emergencies. Being prepared helps to safeguard your own safety and the safety of others. September is a time to remind everyone how and why to make emergency plans for events that could happen at any point in time.

Additionally, for your safety in emergencies, the American Red Cross has several mobile apps you can download with your family, friends, and fellow Red

Young Adult Spotlight: Caleb Alarcon



Ramya Chamkeri, a current junior at the University of South Florida, majoring in Biomedical Science and minoring in Biomedical Physics.

Ramya has been a Red Cross volunteer for almost three years. She joined before college, in summer 2021, through the USF Red Cross Club. She became junior

Crossers! All are available on the App Store and Google Play, or you can text the corresponding codes for each app. Listed below are a few great ones for preparedness:

- First Aid: GETFIRST to 90999
- Pet First Aid: GETPET to 90999
- Emergency: GETEMERGENCY to 90999
- Hurricane: GETCANE to 90999
- Tornado: GETNADO to 90999
- Earthquake: GETQUAKE to 90999
- Monster Guard: MONSTER to 90999

To learn more about the Red Cross apps, click [here](#).

2014 Field Ambassador Program



Interested in developing new initiatives and engaging youth in your region? Apply to be a Field Ambassador for the 2023-2024 school year! Learn more about this opportunity on our [landing page](#) and apply by **September 25 at 11:59 pm ET!**

With only 1 Field Ambassador per region, these volunteers serve as liaisons between their local region and the National Youth Council, promoting monthly national initiatives and working closely with local chapters and clubs to develop youth programs tailored to their region's needs.

marketing chair, then administrative chair, and finally junior president. Her efforts as junior marketing chair focused on boosting membership. When leadership shifted due to a personal emergency, Ramya took the administrative chair role, collaborating closely with the president and junior president. In her junior presidency, the Club saw record member turnout, aiming to offer unique volunteering chances.

Ramya proposed events like a carnival night and the annual IHL Painting Night, both educational and engaging. The Club's growth led to partnerships for wider reach. One collaboration, with the United Nations Association Chapter on campus, focused on World Tuberculosis Day. Notable events included Refresh with Red Cross, a presentation on the Vaccinate a Village initiative, and the Trick or Treat Scavenger Hunt.

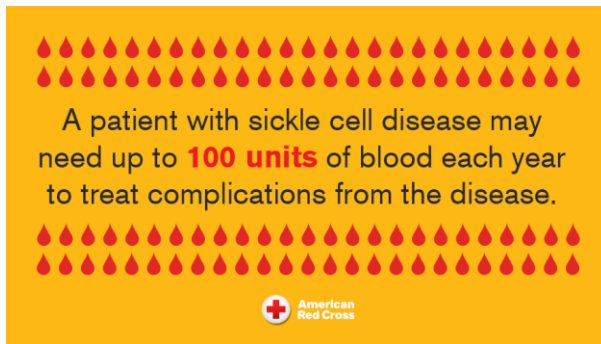
Ramya's involvement extended to community service, like supporting homeless veterans. She also co-hosted a Shaved Ice Fundraiser, raising about \$130 for the Vaccinate a Village Measles & Rubella Partnership. Overall, Ramya has found her time at the Red Cross fulfilling, fostering strong officer and member connections.

Do you know of a volunteer who has gone above and beyond to make a memorable impact in their community? The Youth Spotlight is a fantastic opportunity for you to nominate outstanding volunteers. These spotlighted volunteers will receive national recognition for their hard work! Nominate a youth volunteer who you think deserves this opportunity by clicking [here](#).

Please keep an eye on the Red Cross YouthField Ambassador landing page or the @AmericanRedCrossYouth Instagram account for updates. Please direct questions to sanjana.velu@redcross.org and kate.clark2@redcross.org.

We look forward to receiving your application and thank you for all that you do for the Red Cross!

Expand Your Knowledge



Want to know more about how to champion the Sickle Cell Initiative? The "**Closing the Sickle Cell Gap**" initiative strives to triple the number of African American blood donors by December 2024, as part of a comprehensive organization-wide campaign. This national movement, supported by the American Red Cross, aims to bridge the existing disparity in meeting hospital demand for compatible units required by sickle cell disease patients. Given that a close blood type match is often crucial for many patients, particularly among donors of the same racial/ethnic background, it's important to have the Red Cross's project in mind as your Clubs and councils organize blood drives or raise awareness about sickle cell disease within your local community.

September Monthly Focus: Veteran/Military Month



We celebrate Sickle Cell Awareness this September! This month serves to bring awareness towards sickle cell disease (anemia), which is caused by a contortion of the blood cells that results in a loss of healthy blood cells; sickle cell disease is often treated with blood transfusions. During this month, it is important to highlight the need for blood donations to help combat this disease. To help bring awareness, you can

Share impactful stories to help bring awareness as to why sickle cell disease is so important to highlight! You can watch [Tymia's story](#) to learn about the impact that blood donations can have on the lives of individuals!

Explore dates relevant to the fight against sickle cell disease, such as the celebration of **Dr. Charles R. Drew's birthday**, an African-American surgeon who researched blood transfusions and who organized the first large-scale blood bank at Howard University. Fun fact: Charles Drew was also the first medical director at the Red Cross!

What is YouthWire?

Created by your National Youth Council, YouthWire is a monthly e-newsletter containing important Red Cross youth volunteer opportunities, stories, and resources for youth, young adults, and youth champions! We always want to highlight great stories and hear what awesome things are happening in your region!

Let us know what's new for you!

Questions about youth volunteering with the American Red Cross? Email YouthInvolvement@redcross.org.

Get Social and Share!

Share YouthWire with your peers and invite them to [subscribe](#).

Log Your Hours on Volunteer Connection!

The time you spend volunteering is critical to the American Red Cross. It is important that volunteer hours are submitted through Volunteer Connection so that they can be tracked as part of the overall mission.

Help us tell the story of youth & young adults' incredible impact by logging your hours and filling out the [spotlight form](#) today! Use these helpful [guides and video tutorials](#) to aid you in the process of logging volunteer hours on [Volunteer Connection](#) (desktop version and mobile app version)!



If you no longer want to receive YouthWire, please click here to [unsubscribe](#).

If your Club or council is looking for more volunteer opportunities, consider taking EDGE courses related to sickle cell awareness! Below is a list of relevant EDGE courses:

- [Learn about sickle cell disease](#) (20 min)
- [African American contributions within the Red Cross](#) (10 min)
- [Serving the African American community](#) (20 min)
- [Effective, Inclusive Communication in Closing the Sickle Cell Gap](#) (9 min)