



Volunteer and Community Involvement Information

The City of Redmond has a variety of opportunities for people who wish to volunteer their time to help enhance the quality of life in Redmond, as well as gain experience or learn new job skills at the same time.

Citizen volunteers serve on the City Council and as Mayor; on various commissions and committees involved in city government; with Police and Fire Department programs; and with many special projects at City Hall and in the community. Volunteers help to improve services with very little cost to the taxpayers.

Ongoing Volunteer Programs

- **Teen Court** program -- allows juveniles to mediate their own actions. Information, contact Frank Ribich, Juvenile Services for the Redmond Police Department, 504-3485.
- **Budding society** -- members plan, plant, and maintain the flower beds at the north and south entrances to Redmond.
- **Police Explorer Post 717** -- Redmond Police Department, 504-3400.
- **Fire Department Volunteer Program** -- citizens can serve in a variety of ways at the Fire Department, including firefighting, clerical, EMT or by helping with the annual Toy and Food Drive. Information, 504-5000.
- **Adopt-A-Park and Adopt-A-Street** -- The City of Redmond is looking for volunteers to participate in the Adopt-A-Street Program. Families service organizations, school groups and individuals interested in helping to beautify the community can sign up for a 2-year commitment to clean “their” street, or park, four times a year. The City supplies bright orange vests and trash bags and picks up the bags when you’re finished. For more information or to sign up, call Ray Johnson, 504-2005.
- **Neighborhood Watch / Park Watch** -- Prevent crime and help take care of your neighborhood or one of the City Parks. Call Officer Craig Unger - 504-3425 or Parks Supervisor Ray Johnson - 504-2005.

Current Needs -- Redmond Community

- **Effective Reading Program at RHS** -- As our society becomes increasingly technological, the demand for better literacy increases and the problems for those who struggle with reading escalates. A program in “Effective Reading” at Redmond High School works with older students whose future is in jeopardy because they don’t read fluently and, consequently, have trouble with comprehension.

Volunteers are needed to provide one-on-one tutoring to students on a weekly basis. The only requirement for the volunteers is that they are comfortable reading aloud. Tutoring sessions will take place on Tuesdays, in the classroom, with the teacher present at all times. Training will be provided. For information, call Jan Erickson at 923-4800.

- **SMART** -- The Redmond School District is looking for volunteer readers for the SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) Program. Volunteers read for an hour a week to kindergarten, first, and second grade students in the district’s elementary schools. Each volunteer is paired up with two children for the school year and reads to each of them for a half-hour a week. Many readers read with the same children for several years. For more information on becoming a SMART volunteer, call Judy Godard at 317-3211.
- **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** -- RSVP offers people age 55 and older a way to stay healthy, active and fit while helping others and improving the community. Volunteer opportunities include: computer/ word processing/ data entry; mentoring; reading; driving/ escort; office/ clerical; tutoring; carpentry/ repairs; recreation/ cultural. RSVP participants can serve from a few to over forty hours a week in a wide variety of organizations.

“**Create the Future**” and “**Read Together**” are two of RSVP’s special projects, focusing on children 0-6 years old. “**Helping Hands at Home**” is a home based volunteer program, where volunteers knit, crochet, telephone, or do computer or mailing projects for local agencies.

RSVP was created in 1969 as part of the federal Older Americans Act. Today volunteers across the country number more than 450,000 people. RSVP is part of the National Senior Service Corps which is supported by the federally funded Corporation for National Service. The Deschutes County RSVP Program began in 1996 with a state funded grant to St. Charles Medical Center.

For more information, call RSVP at 388-7746.

- **Humane Society of Redmond** -- Humane Society board meets third Wednesday at noon at Redmond Chamber of Commerce. Thrift Store, 339 Sixth St., 548-2270; Shelter, 925 SE Sisters, 923-0882. Information, Jamie Kanski, 548-2270.

- **Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers** – serves seniors and persons of any age living with a disability, whose needs assistance in various services such as shopping, errands, transportation, light home maintenance, or just companionship or a telephone call.
For more information, call IVC Redmond Office 548-7018, or Bend Office 385-9460
- **Big Brother/Big Sister** -- The Big Brother/ Big Sister Program of Central Oregon is looking for caring adults to volunteer to be mentors and friends to kids from single-parent families. It takes only a couple of hours a week to make a difference in the life of a child. Information, call 312-6047.
- **Hospice of Redmond, Sisters, & Grant County** - - Hospice of Redmond was founded in 1981 as a community based, non-profit organization to provide in-home care for terminally ill persons in the area. Volunteers provide more than 10% of the care by providing respite care for family members, social visits, running errands, and bedside vigil. Some of the non-patient services volunteers provide are organizing fundraisers and special events, community speaking and memorial garden care. Volunteers of all ages, skills and interests are always welcome! Information, call 548-7483, or stop by 732 SW 23rd, Redmond.