About Us:

Rhode Island’s Volunteer Center and State Commission for National and Community Service

Serve Rhode Island is the state’s center for volunteerism and national service. The mission of SRI is to transform the lives of Rhode Islanders by increasing the number of people engaged in volunteer and service activities in their communities.

AmeriCorps:

SRI administers the federally funded AmeriCorps program for the state. SRI is the primary grant recipient of the federal AmeriCorps funds, which are then allocated to capable nonprofits who apply to hosting the AmeriCorps programs, awarded through a competitive process.

Since 1994, SRI has secured 46 million dollars in federal funds for RI nonprofits, providing 4,044 AmeriCorps members who have given 4.7 million hours of service for hundreds of nonprofit educational and community development programs.

Volunteer Services:

SRI’s volunteer center connects thousands of volunteers with opportunities to serve in hundreds of nonprofits and several urban schools annually. SRI has 4,012 volunteers registered on its new online portal HandsOn Connect.

SRI also assists many volunteers who call or walk into its offices in South Providence. SRI connects volunteer groups from corporations, colleges, and the faith community, to service projects working in local schools and cleaning up the environment.

Volunteers for the Environment:

On April 20, 2013 SRI hosted the 6th annual cleanup of the Roger Williams Park pond system. This cleanup project involved 247 volunteers who worked together to clean the ponds of trash deposited over the year. Last year, 294 volunteers removed an estimated 7,000 pounds of trash from the entire pond system. Over the past five years a total of 1,143 volunteers have contributed 3,429 hours of service with an economic benefit of $75,918 in cleaning up the pond.

Volunteer in Times of Disaster:

SRI provided over 1,200 volunteers to help clean up debris in RI coastal areas left by Super Storm Sandy. After the Blizzard of 2013 in February, SRI mobilized 50 volunteers to remove snow for 119 elderly and disabled Rhode Island residents. Volunteers contributed 9,500 hours of service, providing an economic benefit of $210,330.

Search for Opportunities:

You can access volunteer opportunities through Serve Rhode Island browsing their website or by registering with them (also available on the website). As a registered volunteer you can:

- Create a personal volunteer profile, list skills, interests, and even a profile picture
- Save individual volunteer opportunity searches
- Create and manage volunteer teams and sign up for opportunities as a group
- Track and verify your volunteer hours

Some volunteer opportunities will require you to fill out an application and potentially complete a background check (especially if working with children).