

# Teens Make a Difference!

## AWARDS



## Recognizing Students for their Volunteer Service to the Community

### What is Volunteering?

Volunteering is about giving your time, effort and skills, without compensation, for the benefit of the community and most importantly yourself. Acceptable volunteer hours are those that are served at a non-profit organization, which is an organization that serves the community without accruing a profit. Some examples of focus areas that non-profits work in are social, health, welfare, and educational services; legal assistance and other counseling services; library, recreational and other similar services; conservation maintenance, or restoration of natural resources, community improvement or beautification; environmental quality efforts and economic development.

### Why should you volunteer?

- **Career Development** | Build your resume, develop and learn new skills, and explore career options.
- **Understand Your Community** | Increase your social awareness and learn about the population you are serving.
- **Self Esteem** | You will gain self-confidence, and develop a sense of independence and purpose as you are challenged to discover new talents and strengths.
- **Networking** | Be an active member of the community and meet a diverse group of fun and energetic people.
- **Help Others** | Make a difference in someone's life by giving your time and talents.

### Teens Make a Difference

It is an annual award ceremony hosted by Arrowhead United Way and the Inland Center Mall in San Bernardino, which recognizes local high school students who have volunteered during the past year. Students must have a validated timesheet that reflects their volunteer service hours. Award levels are as follows:

- All students who volunteer are recognized for their community service hours with a personalized Teens Make a Difference certificate.
- All students who complete **25 or more** hours are recognized for their efforts at a special ceremony where they receive a personal Teens Make a Difference certificate and recognition gift.
- **100 hours or more** receive all of the above and a school service letter, or star pin if they've already received a school letter for community service.\*
- **250 hours or more** receive all of the above, certificate(s) from their district elected official(s), a Presidential Service Award, and their Teens Make a Difference certificate in a plaque.
- **Top Dawg** | The teen with the most hours receives all of the above, and a special gift.
- **Top School** | The school with the highest number of volunteer hours is awarded the Teens Make a Difference trophy to display for the school year.

### How do you get started?

- To find volunteer opportunities in your area search online or check with your career center for opportunities.
- From there you can download a timesheet from our website, [www.arrowheadunitedway.org](http://www.arrowheadunitedway.org), and use it every time you volunteer!
- Make sure to keep your timesheet and have them signed by your supervisor to verify your hours!
- Turn in your time sheet to your school coordinator **by the deadline** to be recognized at the annual ceremony.

*\*only participating schools*