

**A volunteer service
opportunity for
Rutland County
youth**

RUTLAND COUNTY SERVES

**THE APPLICATION
PROCESS IS ON A
TEMPORARY HOLD DUE
TO COVID-19 TRAVEL
RESTRICTIONS AND
CONCERNS**

Spread the word:
www.RutlandServes.org



Rutland County Serves is offering an annual scholarship to one Rutland County youth with the opportunity to travel abroad or nationally, within the U.S., and volunteer in a service organization for up to four weeks.

The purpose of this scholarship is to offer Rutland County youth the opportunity to experience new cultures, languages, traditions, and perspectives. Service opportunities range from school teaching and medical care, to wildlife rescue and childcare. Assist with wild elephant or sea turtle conservation, sustainable agriculture, food rescue, special needs care, and more. The hope is that this volunteer service experience inspires Rutland County youth to pursue additional service experiences in the future, here in the U.S. and abroad.

How to Apply

Prerequisite: This scholarship is available to youth ages 16-18 with Rutland County addresses.

- **FIRST**, talk with your family about this scholarship opportunity. *Rutland County Serves* will cover flight costs and program fee and registration expenses, but the applicant will be asked to invest in the experience, too, by covering personal expenses related to passport, visa, background check, immunizations, and travel insurance. Consider how you might fundraise in your community for these personal expenses.
- **SECOND**, review the two organizations' websites below - International Volunteer HQ and Plan My Gap Year - and explore the most current service opportunities that are available to 16-18-year-old youth. Select one project that appeals to you.
- **THIRD**, write a 500-word essay that contains these four components:
 - where you want to volunteer (based on available options on websites below)
 - why you want to go to that specific country/project
 - why you think volunteer service is important
 - how you'll share your experience with the Rutland community once you return (e.g. presentations, articles, art)
- **FOURTH**, submit the 500-word essay to entry@rutlandseves.org by September 1, 2021, along with your name, age, address, parental/guardian consent and two character references (which is required by International Volunteer HQ). *Rutland County Serves* will review all applications and announce the recipient of the 2021 scholarship on its website.
- **FIFTH**, check in at www.RutlandServes.org on November 1, 2021, for the announcement of the scholarship recipient. The recipient will have one year to complete the volunteer service experience (this recognizes that volunteer service experiences book months in advance and this allows for sufficient time to organize, register, etc.).

Final Note: *Please note that the preferred volunteer experience identified in the 500-word essay may not be the volunteer experience available by the time the winner of the scholarship is announced. Flexibility in volunteer service choices will thus be necessary. Scholarships will range from 2-4 weeks depending on cost and location as flight and program costs vary per project.*

International Volunteer HQ (www.volunteerhq.org)

Please read this information from IVHQ's website: "Volunteers between the ages of 16-18 years old can travel and volunteer alone on select IVHQ programs with parental/guardian consent. Volunteers under the age of 18 will be required to provide IVHQ with parental consent and two character reference letters in order to participate and may be asked to provide further documentation to local teams depending on their chosen project." Examples of volunteer service opportunities available for youth, ages 16-18, at the time of *Rutland County Serves*' launch: Sri Lanka, Peru, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Ecuador, Laos, Philippines, Vietnam, Portugal, Romania and Tanzania.

Plan My Gap Year (www.planmygapyear.com)

Please read this information from PMGY's website: "We have a number of programs which participants aged 17 can take part in and one project specifically designed for 16 year olds. Volunteers are provided with extensive pre-departure support service, airport pickup, orientation, meals, accommodation, project transportation and local support. The majority of participants are first-time solo travelers; therefore, safety and support is our top priority to ensure you have a positive volunteering experience." Examples of service opportunities available for ages 16-18 on PMGY's website at time of *Rutland County Serves*' launch: Ghana, India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam.