

THE gear up GAZETTE

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Volunteering has no age limit

Eighth graders, now that you're one year away from starting high school, you're going to start hearing more and more about college — for example, what it takes to get in and what college recruiters are looking for when reviewing college applications.

One thing college recruiters look for is whether a student has any type of community service experience. Fortunately, there are a lot of choices when it comes to volunteering. Check out what the word on the street is about helping others.

GEAR UP Student Report

Think of no more donated blood. Disastrous for surgery patients, right? No more donated food. Hunger issues, right? The importance of community service is a subject that should be stressed to everyone. The world would fall apart if no one did anything for anyone else.

Community service can start at a young age. A love for helping people and animals can start by ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at Christmas or going to pet kittens at the Humane Society.

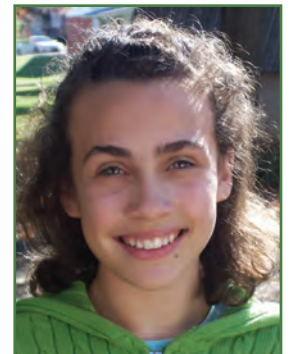
As you enter your teenage years, the community service possibilities broaden. You can do more than what you could do when you



were nine. For example, before you're 14, you can volunteer at the Woodford Humane Society under the supervision of an adult monitor. Once you turn 14, you can begin to volunteer without an adult monitor and feed and wash animals. Another volunteer activity with an age requirement (16) is Repair Affair, which provides free home repair to low-income families.

Katherine Freund, founder of ITNAmerica, a nonprofit organization that relies on volunteer drivers to provide transportation to seniors and visually impaired adults, says community service is a good thing for a young person to take part in because it provides a rich learning experience about the world.

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Age makes no difference when helping the community. Kids can do just about as much as an adult can. The possibilities are endless: reading to younger children at the library, visiting an elderly person at a nursing home, or serving lunch to the homeless. You can start anywhere: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Junior Beta Club, and student-organized service projects at school.

Some of the benefits of doing community service are plenty of good feelings, everlasting friendships, and fantastic experiences. Giving assistance to others makes the recipient feel grateful and the giver feel appreciated.

So get up and do something for someone, whether it is locally, like raking leaves for the elderly couple next door, or internationally, like saving tigers from extinction. Just because you are young does not mean you can't do anything!

IT'S LOGICAL: Everyday math skills useful

Math and reading skills are essential tools for students in both the classroom setting and in the "real world." "But why do I need to know algebra, geometry, or even calculus?" you might be asking. Simply put, many high school students don't know what they want to do with their lives after completing high school. You may decide to enter a math or science field once out of school. True, you may never use some of the concepts you learn in geometry and algebra in day-to-day life, such as the Pythagorean theorem or the quadratic formula, but they provide a well-rounded, useful background when applying for and taking college-level courses.

Think of math as the language of logic and organization. Logical thinking is necessary for effective parenting, making sensible financial decisions and being an asset in your community. Simple arithmetic is a daily requirement; for instance, when opening your first checking account, doubling a recipe to accommodate a larger family, or determining the amount of paint needed for a project. And, of course, with the rise of gas prices, it would probably be helpful to understand how many miles per gallon a



car gets when you buy a new vehicle.

As you can see, these are important facts and figures useful in the "real world." Math skills are essential to everyday life because opportunities to use them are *everywhere*.

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Berea College GEAR UP

Sort goals online to pick a college



Choosing a college can be a tough decision—there are many options and each student has different goals and priorities for the future. The "select a school" tab on GoHigherKY.org can help students sort through the many choices available to them so they can find the school that best suits their needs.

select a
school

This tab features in-depth info about

Kentucky colleges and universities, including location, size, majors offered, and much more. Students can search for a school by name, by requirements they specify, or by distance. Students can also bring up a list of all Kentucky colleges and universities, read about different types of schools, and even take a campus tour.