

The Ohio State University
Agricultural and Extension Education 795.02
PROBLEMS AND ISSUES IN VOLUNTEERISM
Spring Quarter 2009 – 3 credits

- Course Website: Information will be posted on Carmen.
- Instructor: Kristi Lekies, Ph.D.
Room 203B Ag Administration
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- Office Hours: By appointment
- Staff Assistant: Terri Osterman, 210 Ag Admin, 292-6909, osterman.2@osu.edu
Room 202 Ag Admin
- Class Meeting Time: As arranged
- Course Overview: This course is designed to foster a greater understanding of volunteerism in American society. Attention will be given to the practical issues of working with volunteers in programs and organizations.

Objectives:

After completing this course, students will:

- Understand contemporary forms of volunteerism and the impacts of volunteerism.
- Learn about the process of working as a volunteer.
- Understand organizational needs for volunteers.
- Understand successful strategies for recruitment, retention, and supervision of volunteers.
- Be aware of ways to reduce risk in volunteer programs.
- Identify ways to evaluate volunteer efforts.

Textbook: S. McCurley & Lynch, R. (2006). *Volunteer Management: Mobilizing All the Resources of the Community*. (2nd Edition). Kemptonville, Ontario: Johnstone Training and Consultation, Inc.

Other readings as assigned (available online or on reserve at the CFAES library).

Method of Instruction: The course will consist of readings, discussion, special activities, and interviews with volunteers, volunteer program leaders and others involved with various aspects of volunteerism.

Assignments: There will be a number of short written assignments for this course and a final project.

Final Exam: The final exam period is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9 from 11:30-1:18 p.m. At this time, students are expected to have their final project completed. No written exam will be given.

Grading Scale: Points will be earned as follows:

Assignments #1-4	200 points (50 points each)
Final Project	300 points
Total	500 points

Grades will be determined according to the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	84-86%
B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%
C	74-76%
C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%
D	64-66%
E	63% and below

Statement of Student Rights: Any student with a documented disability who may require special accommodations should self-identify to the instructor as early in the quarter as possible to receive effective and timely accommodations.

Academic Misconduct: Academic misconduct of any kind will not be tolerated. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Individual

effort is expected on the assignments. If you have a question about approaches and procedures and what constitutes academic misconduct, ask the instructor. Faculty Rule 3335-5-487 will be followed in cases of academic misconduct – “Instructors shall report instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (on academic misconduct).”

Course Outline, Required Readings, and Assignment Deadlines

Week 1 – April 2 Course overview; Overview of volunteerism

Week 2 – April 9 Overview of volunteerism (continued)

McCurley & Lynch, Chapter 1.

Ellis, S. J. & Campbell, K. H. (2005). *By the people: A history of Americans as volunteers* (3rd Ed.). Introduction: Volunteering in Perspective. Philadelphia: Energize Inc. (on reserve).

Week 3 – April 16 Planning a volunteer program

McCurley & Lynch, Chapters 2-3.

Wilson, J. (2000). Volunteering. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 26, 215-240.

Week 4 – April 23 Recruitment of volunteers

McCurley & Lynch, Chapters 4-6

Petriwskyj, A. M., & Warburton, J. (2007). Motivations and barriers to volunteering by seniors: A critical review of the literature. *The International Journal of Volunteer Administration*, 24, 3-25.

Benjamin, E. J. (2001). A look inside corporate employee volunteer programs. *The Journal of Volunteer Administration*, 19, 16-32.

Pirtle, C. (2004). Utilizing employees as volunteers. *The Journal of Volunteer Administration*, 22, 33-35.

Hobbs, B. B. (2007). Culturally responsive practice: The key to engaging Latinos as adult volunteers. *The International Journal of Volunteer Administration*, 24, 26-34.

Week 5 – April 30 Orientation

McCurley & Lynch, Chapter 7

*Short assignment #1 due

Week 6 – May 7 Supervision

McCurley & Lynch, Chapters 8-10.

*Short assignment #2 due

Week 7 – May 14 Monitoring, feedback, and recognition

McCurley & Lynch, Chapters 11-12.

Macduff, N., & Netting, F. E. (2005). The volunteer and staff team: How do we get them to get along? *The Journal of Volunteer Administration*, 23, 21-25.

Starnes, B. J. (2007). An analysis of psychological contracts in volunteerism and the effect of contract breach on volunteer contributions to the organization. *The International Journal of Volunteer Administration*, 24, 31-41.

*Short assignment #3 due

Week 8 – May 21 Risk management

McCurley & Lynch, Chapters 13-14

*Short assignment #4 due

Week 9 – May 28 Leadership and evaluation

McCurley & Lynch, Chapters 15-17.

Anderson, P. M. & Zimmerer, M. E. (2003). Dollar value of volunteer time: A review of five estimation methods. *The Journal of Volunteer Administration*, 21, 39-44.

Graff, L. L. (2006). Declining profit margin: When volunteers cost more than they return. *The International Journal of Volunteer Administration*, 24, 24-32.

Week 10 – June 4 Future issues in volunteerism

Merrill, M. V. (2006). Global trends and the challenges for volunteering. *The International Journal of Volunteer Administration*, 24, 9-14.

Katz, I. (2007). Are we tending to the future of volunteerism? *The International Journal of Volunteer Administration*, 41, 54-57.

Final Exam – Tuesday, June 9, 11:30-1:18 p.m.

*Final project due.