Fall 2021: Civic and Community Engagement Project

A&SC 111 First Year Experience Seminar

# Project Instructions

Each student must schedule and complete one civic engagement project using the opportunities listed below. Projects are listed in alphanumeric order and are grouped into categories: **in-person, mixed, virtual**, and **create-your-own**.

Schedule your service hours by **September 19, 2021** using the sign-up details provided below. Projects are to take place during the Fall 2021 semester start and end dates respectively **September 8, 2021** to **December 16, 2021**.

## Record Your Volunteer *H*ours

Students must work directly with their chosen organization to provide evidence of their attendance. To record attendance, use the printable **Service Project Log Sheet** and submit to your instructor for grading. Students are also strongly encouraged to record service hours using the Civic Engagement online portal: [Service Sting](http://www.msubillings.edu/engagement/engage-community/serviceSting.htm).

## Civic and Community Engagement Resources

**Civic Engagement Coordinator**: Holly Jones

**Office hours**:University SUB room 219 Mon–Fri, 8 AM–5 PM

**Phone**: (406) 896-5817

**Email**: holly.jones5@msubillings.edu

Learn more at <https://www.msubillings.edu/community>

# In-person Opportunities

1. **Billings Public Library**

**Cause:**Education/Young People.

**Project**: Mentor youth at the library! Teach in the Teen Tech Lab technology skills for computers and photography. Lead Children’s Storytime, later in the winter and springtime. You can even volunteer for the *Adventure in Music* initiative in association with the Billings Symphony. Also, receive training and then try your hand at creating a virtual program.

**Location**: 501 North Broadway Billings, MT 59101

**When: Service Saturday**, September 18, 2021 9:30 am to 12 pm; January to March

**Commitment**: 2 to 3 hours

**Sign-up:** For Service Saturday sign-up at <https://signup.com/go/nXKakPE>.

**Special instructions**: Training will be provided when students arrive.

1. **Eagle Mount of Billings**

**Cause:** Disability Service.

**Project:** “Make adventuring accessible.” This invaluable nonprofit organization provides therapeutic adaptive recreation for individuals with disabilities, ages 4 to 65. Volunteers are paired with an Eagle Mount participant to encourage them to step outside of their comfort zones, ensuring their safety throughout the activity, and coach them in new skills.

**When:** Various weeknights

**Commitment**: 1.5 to 2 hours, two 6-week sessions in either the fall or the spring seasons

**Location**: various locations based on the activity

**Sign-up**: <http://www.eaglemount.us/volunteer/>

1. **Halloween Food Drive**

**Cause:**Food Insecurity.

**Project:** Partnering with Rocky Mountain College, this is MSUB’s annual Halloween-themed food drive in which volunteers collect non-perishable food items for the Yellowjacket Emergency Pantry (YEP) and Family Services from local neighborhoods. Halloween costumes are highly recommended! A friendly intercollegiate competition is held to see who will collect the most donations–Rocky or MSUB?

**When:** 5:30 to 7:00 PM on October 14, 2021 (hand out flyers to neighborhood) and October 28, 2021 (collect food donations)

**Commitment:** 1.5 to3 hours

**Location:** SUB Atrium, collecting food in the neighborhood west of N 27th St and east of 13th St W.

**Sign-up:** Sign-up at <https://signup.com/go/JHtVGQS> to participate on 1 or both nights.

1. **Montana Audubon Center**

**Cause:**Environment.

**Project:** Volunteers will participate in a land conservation project, with the Restoration and Garden programs. No experience in botany or wildlife management? No problem, we provide training on all you need to know!

* Restoration: To continue providing beneficial wildlife habitat, our restoration program focuses on invasive weed control, as well as habitat preservation and maintenance.
* Garden Maintenance: The Center has three demonstration gardens and a memorial garden that volunteers help to maintain through weeding, mulching, planting, and watering.

**When: Service Saturday**, October 16, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

**Commitment**: 2 hours

**Location**: 7026 S Billings Blvd, Billings, MT 59101

**Sign-up**: For Service Saturday sign-up at <https://signup.com/go/nXKakPE>.

1. **Pictograph Cave State Park**

**Cause:** Environment.

**Project:** Volunteers are needed to assist State Park staff with trail maintenance work. Volunteer work performed in this discipline will involve one or more of the following: mowing, brushing, pruning, sawing downed or hazardous trees, re-painting tree blazes which are faded/missing, clearing culverts of debris, water bar rehabilitation, and litter pickup.

**When**: **Service Saturday**, October 9, 2021 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

**Commitment:** 2 hours

**Location:** 3401 Coburn Rd, Billings, MT 59101 (contact the Civic Engagement Coordinator if you need assistance with transportation to this location.)

**Sign-up:** For Service Saturday sign-up at <https://signup.com/go/nXKakPE>.

1. **Salvation Army**

**Cause:**Food Insecurity/Vulnerable Communities.

**Project**: **Night on the Van** is a food insecurity initiative aimed at delivering hot meals to those in need within the Billings community. Each meal provides much-needed supplies to those who cannot reach a food distribution center, ensuring that the vulnerable members of society do not go hungry. The best way to help our community is to sign up for a time to either (1) prepare meals on food trays for the freezer and delivery packages, and/or (2) to deliver food on the community table van at Night on the Van.

**Location**: Salvation Army Corps Community Center, 2100 6th Avenue N. Billings MT 59101

**Commitment**: approximately 2 hours

**Availability**: September 15 to December 8,

1st Monday of each month 5:30 to 7:30 PM (prepare meals) and Every Wednesday, 4:45 pm to 6:30 pm (deliver meals)

**Sign-up:** Limited availability; sign-up at <https://signup.com/go/RheyNts> and you will receive a confirmation email from Salvation Army staff, Darlene Johnson.

**Special instructions**: On arrival report to the South entrance and sign in with a Salvation Army representative. Please arrive promptly at 4:30pm for orientation and health and safety training.

1. **St. Vincent de Paul**

**Cause:**Vulnerable Communities.

**Project:** Help the vulnerable communities with St. Vincent de Paul by preparing and serving a meal, pantry and clothing management, as well as building or general repair tasks.

**When: Service Saturday**, December 4, 2021

**Commitment:** 2 hours

**Location:** 3005 1st Ave S, Billings, MT 59101

**Sign-up:** For Service Saturday sign-up at <https://signup.com/go/nXKakPE>.

1. **Vitalant Blood Drives**

**Cause:**Health Care.

**Project:** You’re part of something bigger than yourself. The ultimate pay-it-forward moment—in order to move life forward—is the simple act of giving blood. You have a source of life pulsing within you that has the power to transform another life.

**When**: October 4, November 30 @ CC / October 6, December 2 @ MSUB

**Commitment**: approx. 1 hour

**Location**: City College: Tech Building, Student Health Services / University: SUB, Beartooth Room

**Sign-up**: [www.vitalant.org](http://www.vitalant.org)

1. **Wise Wonders Science and Discovery Museum**

**Cause:**Education.

**Project:** As a volunteer you help us accomplish our mission to engage curious, creative, and scientific minds through playful learning experiences for all children and families. Assist museum staff with exhibit organization and facility painting.

**When: Service Saturday**, September 18, 2021 9:30 am to 12 pm

**Commitment**: 2 to 3 hours

**Location**: 3024 2nd Ave N, Billings, MT 59101

**Sign-up**: For Service Saturday sign-up at <https://signup.com/go/nXKakPE>.

1. **Yellowstone Art Museum (YAM)**

**Cause:**Arts and Culture.

**Project:** Make a difference in the community by sharing your skills and talents by volunteering at this annual event hosted by the Yellowstone Art Museum: “Masquerade Ball”! An epic costumed Halloween arts and culture event, complete with aerial acts, dancing, costume contest, and more. As a volunteer, you will get the perk of free admission to the event to enjoy the party after your volunteer shift as well.

**When:** October 30, 2021

**Commitment:** 1.5 to 2 hours

**Location:** Yellowstone Art Museum, located at401 North 27th Street Billings, MT 59101

**Sign-up:** [Complete the sign-up form online.](https://www.artmuseum.org/engage/)

1. **Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch**

**Cause:** Vulnerable Communities/Young People.

**Project:** Volunteers will help with general facilities upkeep, cleaning dining areas, vehicles, yards, chapels, and special projects like paining as needed. Youth admitted at the ranch on work crews will work alongside volunteers, so you will additionally provide the service of socialization for these groups of children and youth.

**When**: **Service Saturday**, December 4, 2021, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

**Commitment**: 2.5 to 3 hours

**Location**: 1732 S 72nd St West Billings, MT 59106

**Sign-up**: For Service Saturday sign-up at <https://signup.com/go/nXKakPE>.

1. **Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter**

**Cause:**Animal Welfare.

**Project:** Being a YVAS volunteer doesn’t just mean cuddling puppies and kittens all day—although that can be part of it! Volunteers help with shelter “housekeeping”, cleaning outside yards, sorting donations, laundry, sanitizing wild boxes, making adoption packets & goody bags, preparing enrichment, and much more. Know that every task is important to the health and well-being of the animals and makes a huge impact on our ability to care for these animals.

**When**: **Service Saturday**, November 13, 2021, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

**Commitment**: 2.5 to 3 hours

**Location**: 1735 Monad Rd Billings, MT 59101

**Sign-up**: For Service Saturday sign-up at <https://signup.com/go/nXKakPE>.

1. **Young Poets**

**Cause:**Education/Young People.

**Project:** The Young Poets Program, a program of the Center for Creative Writing at MSUB, encourages students to express themselves through poetry. The program integrates weekly lessons for students in grades 3 – 12 to support school curriculum, including writing, comprehension, reading proficiency, and public speaking skills while furthering trust and empathy within the classroom. Volunteers for this program would join classes for grades 3 – 5 to assist young people with motor skills, dictation, and give encouragement while learning new skills in creative writing and public speaking.

**When**: Various dates.

**Commitment**: 1 hours each week, for 12-week session.

**Location**: **Orchard Elementary School** located at 120 Jackson St, Billings, MT 59101 & **Bench Elementary School** located at 505 Milton Rd, Billings, MT 59105

**Sign-up**: To sign-up to volunteer, contact MSUB instructor Tami Haaland via email thaaland@msubillings.edu or phone (406) 657-2948.

1. **Zoo Montana**

**Cause**: Animal Welfare.

**Project**: Ongoing opportunities include landscaping/gardening, animal caregiving (food prep and cleaning), assisting our educators with outreaches/programs and assisting at events.

**When**: **Service Saturday**, November 13, 2021 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**Commitment**: Varies, ongoing volunteers may serve 2-4 days per month to a per-event basis.

**Location**: 2100 Shiloh Rd, Billings, MT 59106

**Sign-up** For Service Saturday sign-up at <https://signup.com/go/nXKakPE>.

# Mixed Opportunities

1. **406 Pride Resource Center**

**Cause:** Civil Rights/Diversity.

**Virtual Project:** 406 Pride works with the community to build unity, acceptance, and fellowship and to ensure LGBTQ+ people are embraced as full members of society at home, at work, and throughout our communities. A volunteer is needed to participate on the 406 Pride Committee (no prior experience needed, as training will be provided).

**When (virtual)**: 1 hour video call Meeting on the 4th Thursday of each month for the Committee Member volunteer.

**Commitment (virtual):** 1 hour per month.

**In-Person Project:** The Resource Center is available to provide information for individuals and their families to create and maintain healthy and supportive bonds for the LGBTQ+ community as well as provide a gathering place for community building. Volunteers are needed to staff the resource center.

**When (in-person)**: Wednesdays 1:00-5:00 PM, Fridays & Saturdays 10:00 AM-2:00 PM for Resource Center volunteer.

**Commitment (in-person)**: Up to 8 hours/week.

**Location**: 310 N 27th St Billings, MT 59101 (North Alley Entrance)

**Sign-up**: Contact Walt Donges, Board President, at email 406pride@gmail.com or phone (406) 998-8260.

1. **Compassus Hospice**

**Cause:**Senior Care/Health/Business.

**Project: “**Whether serving behind the scenes at the office or one-on-one with a family, you'll be part of a volunteer team helping others navigate life's closing chapter.” Volunteers are needed for patient companionship, bereavement support, administrative and business tasks, and veteran-to-veteran experiences.

**When:** September 8 to May 5

**Commitment:** 1 hour,1 to 2 semester(s) duration

**Location:** multiple locations in Billings, per volunteer assignment

**Sign-up:** Contact Diane Bushey, Volunteer Coordinator at diane.bushey@compassus.com at (406) 294-0785

**Special instructions:** Volunteers will need to complete an application through Compassus, which includes a background check and a tuberculosis and hepatitis record/statement. Volunteers will receive an orientation online training, continued education, and check-ins with Compassus staff throughout the duration of the volunteer time.

1. **Forward Montana**

**Cause:** Civic Engagement.

**Virtual Project:** Help Forward Montana with “Get out to Vote”! Volunteers will be using digital methods to reach out to voters (social media, phone calls, and text messaging) to ensure young voters are ready to vote in Municipal elections on Nov 2, 2021. Through phone, text, and print volunteers will be informing voters on how and by when to register to vote from the safety of their homes, as the election gets closer we will switch gears to informing people about deadlines to turn in their absentee ballots, and polling station safety information.

**In-Person Project:** The goal of Forward Montana is for young adults to dive in to voting and advocating civically for public policies that reflect their values, a more supportive climate will be created to advance policies that better their lives and the lives of all Montanans. Volunteers would assist others with registering to vote and giving key nonpartisan information about the issues and candidates on the ballot.

**Commitment**: varies

**Location**: multiple locations in the Billings, MT area

**Sign-up**: Email Pari@ForwardMontana.org to discuss further opportunities for the virtual project. [Complete the sign-up form online](https://forwardmontana.org/volunteer/) for in-person volunteering.

1. **Moss Mansion**

**Cause:**Environment/Arts&Culture.

**Virtual Project:** Volunteer with the research and curation volunteers to delve into topics related to the Moss Mansion. Possible topics include former occupants of the home, objects in collections, archival material for preservation, and history of the property. Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Ashley Kuykendall, at ashley@mossmansion.com for further details.

**In-Person Project:** Volunteer at the Moss Mansion during Service Saturday to participate with staff and crucial, tenured volunteers to assist in various ways to share the history of this historic house museum.

* **Garden Volunteers** help to maintain the lush gardens and grounds of the Moss Mansion. They work alongside the museum’s groundskeeper and other Master Gardener volunteers to ensure that the grounds are pristine in their appearance. Garden tasks are seasonal and are based on garden needs.

**When: Service Saturday**, October 16, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

**Commitment**: 2 hours

**Location**: 914 Division St, Billings, MT 59101

**Sign-up**: For Service Saturday sign-up at <https://signup.com/go/nXKakPE>. For individual opportunities, apply online at <https://www.mossmansion.com/get-involved/volunteer/>

1. **St. John’s United**

**Cause:**Vulnerable Communities/Senior Care.

**Virtual Project:** #AloneTogether Letter Writing Campaign: The elders of St. John's United have been separated from their loved ones due to COVID-19 crisis. You can be a friend and provide a bit of joy to someone by sending mail to our residents! For those elders who do not use technology, receiving mail can be the highlight of their day. You can make a batch of holiday or thinking of you cards that can be distributed to any resident. Take a moment from your day to be the light in someone else’s!

**Location**: Send mail to St. John’s United,2429 Mission Way, Billings, MT 59102

**In-Person Project:** You are needed as a volunteer to share compassionate care and meaningful time with this vulnerable community, who look ahead to seeing seasonal festivities mark the arrival of excitement and joy-filled times to come. Interact with seniors at St. John’s United for a fun, community holiday-themed event where seniors and students can spend meaningful time together.

**When: Service Saturday**, December 4, 2021

**Commitment:** 2 hours

**Location:** 3940 Rimrock Road Billings, MT 59102

**Sign-up:** For Service Saturday sign-up at <https://signup.com/go/nXKakPE>. For individual opportunities, email SJU Volunteer Staff, Raschelle Adams, at RAdams@sjlm.org or call (406) 655-7785.

1. **Yellowjacket Emergency Pantry**

**Cause:** Food provision.

**Project:** Address food insecurity in Billings and at MSU Billings. Help by collecting donations from bins around campus, preparing bundles of hygiene products for clients to receive, taking inventory, and

**Virtual Project:** Volunteer with the research into topics related to the food insecurity in Billings and Yellowstone County. Possible topics include identifying causes, seeking innovative solutions, creating a listing of community leader/resources, and modeling the sustainability of current methods.

**When:** Various times available

**Commitment:** 1-2 hours

**Location**: 1500 University Drive Billings, MT 59101 - SUB room 219

**Sign-up:** Contact Civic Engagement Coordinator, Holly Jones, at holly.jones5@msubillings.edu or call (406) 896-5817.

# Virtual Opportunities

For an extensive list of virtual volunteer opportunities from **around the world**, please see our [online Virtual Volunteer Resource Collection](http://www.msubillings.edu/engagement/engage-community/virtualVolunteer.htm). This open-source project is hosted by Montana State University Billings (MSUB) and is intended to be a virtual volunteering repository for all higher education students. The resource collection includes links to non-profits, search tools, news articles, research papers, videos, and essential e-conferencing software.

# Create your own Opportunity

If there is a non-profit organization or agency that did not appear on this project list which you are interested in volunteering with, then please bring your idea and brief project details to Civic Engagement Coordinator, Holly Jones, at email holly.jones5@msubillings.edu for prior approval.

## Work with Student United Way to Lead Volunteer Projects

Student United Way (SUW) is a campus-based community change organization that addresses critical education, income, and health issues in the community. SUW provides opportunities for students to plan, lead, and execute projects to develop the next generation of community leaders. [Learn more](http://www.msubillings.edu/engagement/engage-community/studentUnitedWay.htm) about joining this MSUB student organization.