

CIVIC EDUCATION SERIES

Class #10: Volunteerism & Community Involvement

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the value and impact of volunteerism in Rindge.
2. Learn about volunteer opportunities with town boards, committees, and local organizations.
3. Discover how volunteer work strengthens community bonds and supports vital services.
4. Gain insights on how to start new initiatives or join existing programs.

INTRO TO VOLUNTEERISM

(10 MIN)

- Why volunteerism is essential for small-town communities.
 - How volunteers enhance town services, improve public spaces, and support community events.
 - The social and personal benefits of giving back.
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- Key Message: *"Volunteering is not just giving your time — it's building a stronger, more vibrant Rindge."*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH TOWN BOARDS & COMMITTEES (20 MIN)

- Board of Selectmen Advisory Committees: Supporting projects, research, and special initiatives.
- Conservation Commission: Helping maintain Rindge's forests, wetlands, and protected spaces.
- Planning Board & Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA): Providing guidance on land use, development, and zoning decisions.
- Library Board of Trustees & Friends of the Library: Supporting educational programs, literacy events, and fundraising.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS (20 MIN)

- Rindge Historical Society: Preserving and sharing Rindge's rich history.
- Rindge Recreation Department: Supporting youth programs, sports leagues, and community events.
- Local Food Pantries & Meal Programs: Helping seniors, families, and individuals in need.
- Rindge Woman's Club & Lions Club: Civic groups dedicated to community improvement and outreach.

CREATING NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(20 MIN)

- How residents can identify unmet needs and propose new initiatives.
- Steps to collaborate with town officials to start new volunteer-driven programs.
- Encouraging mentorship programs to connect experienced volunteers with new participants.
- Engagement: Brainstorm new volunteer ideas and encourage participants to share their skills and interests.

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (15 MIN)

- Junior Selectman Program: Introducing students to local government and leadership roles.
- Community Service for Students: Opportunities for teens to earn volunteer hours for graduation requirements.
- Encouraging families to participate in clean-up days, community festivals, and public service initiatives.
- Engagement: Highlight student-led volunteer efforts that have made a lasting impact.

CLOSING REMARKS AND Q&A

(10 MIN)

- Recap of key points.
- Open floor for participant questions.
- Distribute handouts with volunteer resources, contact information, and steps for getting involved.