



DEI IN MOTION

National Volunteer Month

April 2026

It's one of our favorite months: National Volunteer Month! This month, consider giving back to your community, your favorite park, or encouraging family and friends to join you at your next volunteering event. There are many ways to volunteer, so choose something that interests you or aligns with your skills. Many listed organizations also have family volunteer events to encourage children to start volunteering.

In Chicago, there are numerous opportunities to give back. Here are a few:

- Check out the [National Volunteer Website](#)
- [Chicago's food bank](#) has a comprehensive list of volunteer opportunities and ways to donate
- Celebrate Earth Day with the Forest Preserves
- Participate at [Shedd Aquarium action days](#)
- Volunteer on Earth Day (April 18), as [Chicago Parks](#) will host a special event
- Assist with a Natural Areas Community Stewardship Day
- Support [literacy programs](#)
- Donate [children's books](#)

This list includes just a small sample of the opportunities Chicago offers for volunteers.

Stewardship is for everyone, and any amount of support you can provide makes a significant impact on your community.

Reference links:

- Volunteer.Gov: <https://www.volunteer.gov/s/>
- Chicago's Food Bank: <https://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/>
- Shedd Aquarium Action Days: <https://www.sheddaquarium.org/care-and-conservation/take-action-for-animals/shedd-aquarium-action-days>
- Chicago Parks: <https://www.sheddaquarium.org/care-and-conservation/take-action-for-animals/shedd-aquarium-action-days>
- Sit Stay Read | Literacy Programs: <https://www.sitstayread.org/>
- Chicago Cares Children's Books: <https://www.chicagocares.org/s/volunteer-job/a0sPZ0000008Re9YAE/project-childrens-book-donation-processing-with-open-books>