



#YALILEARNS



**YALILearns Session
Facilitation Guide**

**JOY OF
VOLUNTEERING**

Your Guide to Facilitating a Session on the Joy of Volunteering

Using the YALI Network Video Vignette Series, "[Joy of Volunteering](#)" and the following guide, you can facilitate an interactive YALILearns session with members of your community. In the spirit of community service, this guide will show your audience that volunteering is not just working for free. It will inspire your audience to see how volunteering positively impacts the community as it develops and enhances professional skills.

Total Time: 45 Minutes

Introduce Yourself (5 minutes)

- Thank participants for joining, and introduce yourself. Provide an overview of the YALI Network and direct participants to yali.state.gov for more information.
- Briefly share what motivated you to facilitate this group discussion on the joy of volunteering.
- Give participants a brief overview of the session format, what you will be covering, and what they can expect from the session.

Icebreaker (5 minutes)

- Ask each participant to share with the group their name and what they believe are the benefits of volunteering. Remind participants to keep their responses to 30 seconds or less.

Watch Videos 1-3: "[What Does It Mean to Volunteer?](#)," "[Why Everyone Should Find Time to Be a Volunteer](#)," and "[The Benefits of Being a Volunteer](#)"

Group Discussion (10 minutes)

After watching the videos, invite participants to discuss the following questions:

- What were some ideas you heard growing up in your household about the importance of volunteering?
- Volunteers can help an organization or group save funds while they are growing in the beginning. When have you been part of an initiative that benefitted from volunteers in this way?
- Consider a current volunteer effort of yours. What skills are you sharpening through your involvement?
- Think about your dream job, and discuss specific or types of organizations you could gain field experience from by volunteering for them.
- Who was the last friend or professional contact you gained through volunteering?

Watch Videos 4 and 5: “Getting the Most from Volunteering,” and “Getting Even More from Volunteering.”

Group Discussion (10 minutes)

After watching the videos, invite participants to discuss the following questions:

- During your current volunteer effort, what have you learned about the organization? What have you learned about yourself?
- During your current volunteer effort, why did you think you were a good fit for the organization or group as a volunteer?
- What is an organization or group you have been interested in volunteering with, and what are the next steps to getting involved?
- Take turns in your group to talk about organizations or groups you volunteer with and the best experience you’ve had as a volunteer.
- What do you think is important for a volunteer coordinator to prioritize when they’re communicating with their volunteers in order to make their experience better?

Wrapup (5 minutes)

- Thank your participants for joining your discussion on the joy of volunteering.
- Encourage participants to go online and watch the YALI Network Video Vignette Series “[Joy of Volunteering](#)” or join the YALI Network at yali.state.gov.

