

Students encouraged to volunteer

By Kelvin Wee
Emerald Reporter

Editor's note: This story is the final story in a two-part series on student volunteer opportunities.

Students who wish to volunteer with non-profit organizations but don't have time to leave campus may consider working with an organization located on campus.

The number of volunteer opportunities available to students on-campus are just as great as those off-campus.

ESCAPE Field Studies, located at M111 EMU, is a student-run ASUO program offering students an opportunity to earn credit while gaining practical experience.

"Anyone who is a University student with the ability to learn, help and work with people will qualify for ESCAPE credits," said Michael Pelley, ESCAPE director.

ESCAPE welcomes students of all majors and works with more than 350 volunteers who participate with various agencies both off- and on-campus, Pelley added.

These volunteers choose from a variety of opportunities in various divisions from which credit can be earned, or opt for an area not included in the ESCAPE schedule.

The latter requires the volunteer to complete some steps to ensure the credits are received. This includes registering for the credits and submitting a request form to the ESCAPE office.

Working with the ESCAPE program doesn't require attending classes unless one is a first-time volunteer, in which case attendance at a seminar is required. All volunteers must log their hours and submit a written report at the end of each term in order to be awarded credit, Pelley explained.

For those students who can-

not afford time in a complete ESCAPE program, the ASUO and its "children" organizations offer a vast number of opportunities for students to work with a student organization.

"There are tons of ways to get involved with student groups doing what you want to do," said Michael Siström, ASUO Programs Coordinator.

The ASUO currently has more than 27 openings for students wanting to volunteer on student/faculty committees. Some of these committees include those dealing with academic and minority issues.

On-campus opportunities are abundant in the EMU, Siström said. Most of the 100 or so ASUO student programs like OSPiRG, the Druids, and Circle K work with student volunteers in a wide variety of tasks.

Of the non-ASUO programs located in the EMU, the Cultural Forum provides an active organization students can work with. Students who volunteer with the forum can pick up useful skills that could be helpful in their professional life, Siström explained.

The Cultural Forum, located in Suite 2 EMU, is responsible for organizing, scheduling and planning a majority of the cultural events on campus.

"We put on popular concerts, films, lectures and dance productions all year round," said Linda Dievendorf, Cultural Forum program advisor.

The Cultural Forum works with an average of 25 volunteers each performance, and about five at each film showing, she added.

Volunteers begin with the Cultural Forum on the events crew team, and can work their way up to events coordinators. Volunteers with the Cultural Forum also get to attend events free of charge, Dievendorf said.

The EMU Computer Lounge is another non-ASUO program offering students an opportunity to learn while they work.

"Students who volunteer with us are given complete access to our facilities if they volunteer five hours each week," said Roy Singer, EMU Computer Lounge manager.

The Computer Lounge requires volunteers to be familiar with about three or four software programs for either Macintosh or IBM compatible computers, Singer added.

The Computer Lounge currently works with about 10 volunteers, and there are openings for more those interested in volunteering as lab assistants, Singer said.

Opportunities also are available for foreign students who want to volunteer time on campus. The Foreign Student Organization located in Room 206 EMU offers foreign students the chance to participate in many programs.

"We currently have openings for members on the FSO Advisory Committee and encourage students to apply for them," said Kiyono Kobayashi, FSO president.

The FSO also works with several foreign student groups as their "parent organization," including programs representing Norwegian, Pakistani, Arab, Indonesian, Chinese, Japanese, Nigerian, Korean, Indian, Iranian, and Filipino students. These groups constantly are looking for more volunteers to help with their work, Kobayashi added.

The FSO also hosts a weekly coffee hour at the International Student Lounge at 4 p.m. each Friday. Students also are needed to help organize these functions, she explained.

"The opportunities for students who want to volunteer are unlimited on-campus," she said. "Most organizations are open to new ideas and suggestions on how people can get involved, and most of the groups are listed in the student directory, handed out free each year."

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Student activities

Friday, Oct. 16
International Coffee Hour sponsored by FSO. Speaker Sheila Hale will speak about international students and conflicts. Event will be held in the EMU International Lounge at 4:30 p.m. No admission charge and all are welcome.

Singapore Student Association Potluck '87. Events begin at 6 p.m. at the Gerlinger Lounge. All are welcome, and bring a dish for the best dish competition. Prizes will be awarded for the best three delicacies.

Third Annual "Sweat 'til You Get Wet" Dance sponsored by Black Student Union and Carson Fifth Floor. Events begin at 9 p.m. Admission is \$1 with sweats and \$2 without.

Monday, Oct. 19
"Physical Fitness Day." First part of the four-day ASUO Wellness Symposium. All events for this day will be held in the EMU Gumwood Room. Events are scheduled from noon to 2 p.m., 4 to 6 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. each day. Refer to advertisement in the Emerald for speakers and additional information.

Tuesday, Oct. 20
"Mental Health Day." Second part of the four-day ASUO Wellness Symposium. Location for events are as follows: noon to 2 p.m. in the EMU Forum Room; 4 to 6 p.m. in the Bean West Conference Room; and 7 to 9 p.m. in 150 Geology. Refer to advertisement in the Emerald for speakers and additional information.

Wednesday, Oct. 21
"Safer Sex Day." Third part of the four-day ASUO Wellness Symposium. All events for this day will be held in the EMU Gumwood Room. Events are scheduled from noon to 2 p.m., 4 to 6 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. each day.

Thursday, Oct. 22
"Drug and Alcohol Awareness Day." Final day of the four-day ASUO Wellness Symposium. Location for events are as follows: noon to 2 p.m. in Room 129 Law Center; 4 to 6 p.m. in the Bean East Conference Room; and 7 to 9 p.m. in 150 Geology.

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