



# Tips for Successful Relationships with Community Organizations



The following tips are meant to help a classroom, school, after-school program, youth service club, or youth group in making strong partnerships with agencies in the community.

## Plan before contacting community organizations.

- Develop basic goals and guidelines for your group.
- Identify the issues that you want to address/impact through volunteerism.
- Learn which community organizations and people are involved in addressing these issues from Volunteer San Diego, United Way, community directories, or word of mouth.

## Include community organizations in the planning process.

- Community organizations can offer a multitude of information.
- They can provide valuable insight into the needs of the community.
- They may provide guest speakers or other services to your class/group.
- They can assist in the development or presentation of curriculum.
- Invite a variety of community organizations to participate.
- Involve the organization's clients, if appropriate.
- Obtain the agency's "buy-in" and belief in your program.

## Involve community agencies as partners in your program.

- The agency has the final say in the service to be provided to their clients.
- Develop shared responsibility for the program (in areas such as orientation training, project development, supervision, and recognition).
- Develop a partnership that is mutually beneficial and ongoing.
- Share costs where possible.
- Identify a contact for the agency to call if there are questions about the project.