Community Service Using Computer Skills

Deb Erickson
derickso@magnaspeed.net

Tammy VanDeGrift	
tammy@cs.washington.edu
Messages

- Volunteering benefits you
- Finding volunteer opportunities is easy (if you know where to look)
- Volunteering can take place at work, at home, or abroad
- Everyone has a volunteering story to share
Introductions

- Name
- Gustavus class
- Current status
- Most recent volunteer position
  - Either CS related or other
How volunteering benefits you

- Learn new skills
- Polish up rusty skills
- Keep skills current while not in the paid workforce
- Network
- Help a cause you believe in
- Improve work/life satisfaction
- Travel
At Work

- Often provide paid time off for employees to volunteer
  - Ex: Toro Company gives employees 20 hours of paid volunteer time yearly
  - Some have offered sabbaticals to employees

- Dollars for Doers program
  - Corporations award grants to qualified non-profits organizations based on hours volunteered by employees

- National e-Week
IBM

- National Engineers Week (eWeek)
  - Science fair judge, classroom experiment leader
  - ‘Introduce a Girl to Engineering’ week
  - www.eweek.org

- Exploring Interest in Technology and Engineering (EXCITE) Camp
  - All girls camp, hands on technology education

- MentorPlace
  - Online academic assistance, information about careers in technology
  - www.mentorplace.org
Where to look for Corporate Opportunities

- [www.eweek.org](http://www.eweek.org)  
  - February 20-26, 2005
- Human resources department
- Community relations department
- Volunteer Council
- Company website may list local opportunities
At School

- Engineering Projects for Community Service (EPICS) at Purdue University
  - epics.ecn.purdue.edu

- Institute for Women in Technology Virtual Development Center (IWT VDC) at University of Washington
  - courses.washington.edu/engr100h/qna.html
At School cont.

- University of Washington sponsors an open house for k-12 students to explore engineering professions
  - [www.outreach.washington.edu](http://www.outreach.washington.edu)
- University of Colorado Science Outreach
  - [ecadw.colorado.edu/engineering/outreach/index.htm](http://ecadw.colorado.edu/engineering/outreach/index.htm)
- Gustavus Adolphus College
  - [www.gustavus.edu/oncampus/communityservice/index.cfm](http://www.gustavus.edu/oncampus/communityservice/index.cfm)
At Your Kid’s School

- MathCounts
  - Coaching and competition program for middle school students nationwide
  - [www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org)

- Tech Corps
  - Mobilize tech volunteers into schools to offer tech support and teacher training for K-12 schools
  - [www.techcorps.org](http://www.techcorps.org)
At Your Kid’s School cont.

- For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST)
  - Inspires in young people, their schools and communities an appreciation of science and technology and how mastering these can enrich the lives of all
  - FIRST Robotics Competition
  - FIRST Lego League
  - www.usfirst.org
In Your Community

- **Senior Center**
  - Help seniors learn to send and receive email, use Word, and surf the internet

- **Church**
  - Maintain website

- **Science museum**
  - Lead demonstrations

- **Library**

- **Community Computer Labs**
Find a Local Opportunity

- www.volunteermatch.org
- www.npower.org
- www.volunteers TwinCities.org
- www.mentorminnesota.com
- www.volunteerconnection.org
In The World

- United Nations Information Technology Service (UNITeS)
  - Global volunteer initiative to help bridge the digital divide
  - www.unites.org

- Peace Corps
  - Help communities and organizations capitalize on available and appropriate IT
  - www.peacecorps.org
Geek Corps

Places international technical volunteers in developing nations to contribute to projects while transferring knowledge and skills to keep the project moving forward after volunteer leaves

www.geekcorps.org
In Your Home

- Mentor Net
  - E-mentor network for women in engineering and science
  - www.mentornet.net/

- International Telementor Center
  - www.telementor.org

- Cyberangels
  - www.cyberangels.org/

- VolunteerMatch.org
  - www.volunteermatch.org/virtual/
Brainstorming

- Personal Experiences
- Recommendations for others
- How to find opportunities
Find Opportunities

- www.volunteermatch.org
- www.npower.org
- www.volunteertwincities.org
- www.mentorminnesota.com
- www.volunteerconnection.org
When All Else Fails

- www.google.com
  - Keywords ‘volunteer’ ‘computer’ and <state>