

DUKE ALUMS ENGAGE

Will you connect with Duke alumni near you as part of a global week of service?

Join us this spring for **Duke Alums Engage**, the civic engagement program coordinated by the Duke Alumni Association. The DAA invites all alumni to organize or join a local project during the week of **April 24-May 3, 2015**.

Groups of alumni will again work with local partner organizations to complete dozens of planned service projects. Duke Alums Engage helps alumni tap into the spirit of Duke's commitment to knowledge in the service of society – alumni become directly engaged in their local community in a uniquely Duke way. During our last Duke Alums Engage week in 2014, over [1200 alumni](#), family and friends volunteered in 45 cities around the world doing 60 different projects.

Duke Alums Engage integrates the concepts of service learning, civic engagement, and reflection. Through this program, Duke alumni are invited to examine and address the social and political issues impacting their local communities. DukeEngage is the university's program that teaches this process to undergraduates. Through the summer of 2013, more than 2,400 Duke students have participated in the United States and abroad, typically through eight-week summer programs. And it's just one of several civic engagement programs Duke is emphasizing. The Duke Center for Civic Engagement also oversees the former Community Service Center and other initiatives, which faculty integrate with the academic experience. Some 80 percent of students now volunteer while at Duke.



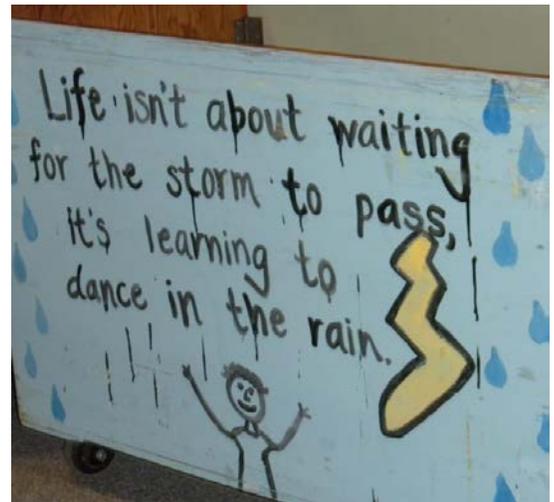
Reading to children in Detroit

“ I am proud that I know so many people who were willing to give so much of themselves to help others in need. I'm also proud to be associated with a great university that asks its students, both past and present, to use their knowledge in service to society.”

Jack Boyd '85, co-leader of the New York City project, where over 100 NY alumni sponsored a community health and fitness day in partnership with the Children's Aid Society at Dunlevy Milbank, serving hundreds of families in Harlem



Durham (left) and Charlotte, N.C.



Duke Alums Engage invites alumni to focus their knowledge on serving their own communities. It also connects alumni with undergraduates doing this work nearby. Alumni have helped students find service internships in U.S. cities such as New Orleans, Seattle, Charlotte and Portland and are hosting gatherings and sponsoring outings for undergrads.

A service activity is an intense, immersive experience that exposes you to cross-cultural, logistical, and ethical challenges. Through discussions before and after their service activities, alumni can learn about and reflect on social and political issues the same way Duke students learn and reflect. Recent Duke graduates trained in service-learning are often available to lead these discussions.

We hope to build upon the caring spirit of many Duke alumni and the current charitable work of Duke regional alumni networks to expand the service opportunities available to all alums. For your local network, that might begin with Duke Alums Engage this spring and grow into a sustainable, longer term relationship with a community service partner organization.

Will you become a part of this exciting initiative as we apply the strength of our network of Duke alumni and friends to needs in our own communities?

In this guide you'll find direction on organizing a project in your community, as well as contact information for staff who can help you along the way.

—Jeff Howard, DAA President, 2012-2014



Duke Alums Engage is a natural extension of the new programs the Duke Alumni Association and the leaders in the regions have been introducing in the past few years.”

Sterly Wilder '83,
Executive Director, DAA



Washington, D.C.

How to join Duke Alums Engage 2015

Imagine Duke alumni and friends around the globe working together during a week of civic engagement. No matter where you are, you can join us in service this spring with Duke Alums Engage.

Become a lead volunteer and encourage other Duke alums in your area to get involved.

Partner Organization Ideas

Since 2009, alumni have worked successfully with:

*Teach for America
Meals on Wheels
KIPP Schools
United Way*

*Adopt-a-Highway
Saint Paul Parks and Recreation
Central Oklahoma Humane Society
Spring Creek Literacy Project
Keep Austin Beautiful
World Vision
Project C.U.R.E.
The Idaho Foodbank
Children's Aid Society
Mar Vista Family Center
Flying Horse Farms
and more*



Washington, D.C.

Establish a small, dedicated leadership/steering committee (3-4 volunteers)

To get started, invite local alumni, particularly recent graduates, to join the leadership group. Connect in person or on a conference line and develop a plan for reaching out to local alumni.

Identify and confirm your partner organization

Do you and other local alumni have a common interest in a particular issue or goal? Does someone already have experience or an established relationship with a service organization? Choose a local or national partner organization and activity. When identifying potential partner organizations, consider:

Are the organization's goals consistent with those of your alumni group and the university?

Does the organization have a good track record working with volunteers? Check their references.

Will all alumni feel welcome? Avoid activism/advocacy and partners with religious or political affiliations.

Does the partner organization require a financial commitment from your volunteer group, and if so, how will you manage that?

For further guidance, refer to www.dukealumsengage.com for the training document, "Choosing a Community Partner." After researching potential organizations, set up an interview to confirm that you will work together. Establish which alum(s) will coordinate with the organization. Be clear about your goals and timeline.

Confirm the details of your service activity

Nail down project specifics, including a date and location. Remember that partner organizations are the experts. Consider:

What do you and the partner organization hope to accomplish?

How many volunteers do you expect, and will you include children?

How flexible is the project? What if the weather does not cooperate?

Could this become an ongoing project?

For further guidance, refer to www.dukealumsengage.com for the training document, "Planning and Executing an Event."



Recruit volunteers and prepare for project day

How will you reach out to area alumni? The DAA will send invitations to all potential participants in your area. After you provide the DAA with details of your planned event, we will send that information to respondents in the spring. This information should include contacts, event time and location, directions and transportation information, and reminders of volunteers' roles.

During the winter, you'll need to:

- Budget expenses and plan your project day (parking, food pick-up/clean-up).

- Determine how alumni can be involved beyond the day of the event (make a donation, preparatory work, etc.)

- Communicate with area alumni using the resources of the steering committee (friends, e-mail, social networks or snail mail).

Two weeks before project day, contact the partner organization to confirm your plans.

Plan for pre- and post-service feedback and reflection

Through Duke Alums Engage, we hope to promote structured reflection on the civic, ethical and personal dimensions of the service experience. That means taking time to pause and consider the meanings of our experiences and behaviors in relation to society. Recent graduates trained in facilitating reflection (LEAPers) may be available to assist your local alumni group.

Pre-reflection (5-15 minutes)

- Ask the partner organization to take five to 10 minutes before your service activity to set the stage by describing to alumni participants the organization's approach to its macro issue (e.g. hunger, homelessness, AIDS, or foster children).

- Ask participants to reflect on why they are participating and what they know and don't know about the community need they are serving.

Reflection in action

- Encourage participants to actively think, talk, listen, and ask during the project.

Post-reflection (15-30 minutes)

- At the project site or at a gathering afterward, have participants reflect on their personal and community experience. Prepare some questions beforehand. For further guidance, refer to www.dukealumsengage.com for the training document, "Guidelines for the Debriefing Session."



Durham and Charlotte



Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

On project day

Encourage volunteers to wear Duke gear.

Don't forget to bring volunteer lists, DAA-provided name tags, and cameras. (The DAA will also provide permission forms for participants to authorize the sharing of their e-mail and photos.)

Soon after project day

Reflect on your successes and any challenges encountered on project day and throughout the planning process.

Consider what you might change or do the same next year.

Send your partner organization thank-you notes that DAA will provide.

Share attendance lists, photos and comments with DAA.

Promptly fill out the DAA evaluation forms.

“*Duke is working to promote real-world problem solving as an integral part of education, not a good work off to the side.*”

President Richard Brodhead, speaking at the Service Nation Summit, September 2008

Contact DAA staff for help

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