

MFS Creative Writing Competition 2017-18

F.1 1st Prize

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Should teens join volunteer work regularly?

Nowadays, many teens seem to be forced to do volunteer work because of a school requirement of completing a certain number of community service hours before their graduation. However, volunteering regularly is beneficial to them.

First, they can expand their understanding of other people's lives as they can have more opportunities to engage with those people who are in need. This is also a great way to expand their social groups beyond the school walls. Volunteering also teaches them new skills like how to have better communication with the elderly and time management. Of course, there is one additional bonus for teenagers to join volunteer work – a shining profile. They can list out all the volunteer work they have done on their school applications and it may even help when applying for scholarship assistance or financial aid.

It is understandable that teens in Hong Kong find it difficult to squeeze in time for volunteer work into their already packed schedules. However, they can treat it like a hobby. If they are interested in animals, they can consider volunteering at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. If they like to be close to nature, they can join a tree planting event at the Friends of the Country Parks in Hong Kong. If they just want to help people, they can join a local charity or visit a nursing home. It is not difficult to find one in Hong Kong.

The knowledge that teenagers learn from volunteering can make a difference in their communities. They should be encouraged to explore different volunteering opportunities and keep doing them regularly. The benefits will pay off for years to come.