

TEENS IN ACTION

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: DO

Choose one or more of the following projects to complete, and keep track of the hours you spend. We ask that you provide a short reflection about each activity in the online timesheet.

Note: Skokie Public Library's Teen Services Team offers this nonpartisan volunteer opportunity to help inform you so that you can stand up for causes that you are passionate about. For more information on our vision, mission, values, and priorities, please check out our [2023-2026 Strategic Plan and Vision](#).

PROJECT 1: Enter a Writing Contest

The Pulitzer Center is holding a contest where you can write to an elected representative about a global issue and pose a solution! You'll get service hours no matter what, but the winners also receive money and publication of their work.

Please note: you'll have to give the name of a teacher when you apply.

[Visit their website](#) to read the complete rules. **Deadline is November 15th, 2024.**

PROJECT 2: Write to a Journalist

Read a piece of news (local or national) and write a letter to the editor sharing your thoughts on their piece and why it resonated with you or why you disagreed with its conclusions or coverage.

For more information, see the [Pulitzer Center's advice for writing to journalists](#).

PROJECT 3: Host or Attend a Postcard Party

Pick a national or local cause of any magnitude (theme examples below!) and work with friends to write postcards to those who can make a difference.

See [Working America's webpage](#) for details and tips on how to be successful.

Examples of themes to explore:

- Individual rights
- Your local amenities
- Policies in the community

In addition to filling out the online timesheet, please **send a picture from the postcard writing party to teenteam@skokiellibrary.info**. All participants are welcome to fill out a timesheet!

PROJECT 4: Debate with a Friend

Have a “civil disagreement” in person with someone in your life. Choose a topic you have different views on – it can be a serious one or a light one, but it has to have real meaning to you. Stay off your phone, take some deep breaths, and follow these rules inspired by [Doing Good Together](#):

- Frame it as a debate, rather than a conflict.
- Come in with the intention to listen and learn, not win or agree.
- Argue as if you’re right, but listen as if you’re wrong.
- Make the most respectful interpretation of the other person’s perspective.
- Acknowledge where you agree with your critics and what you’ve learned from them.

Please also read through the [LARA Method of Managing Tense Talks: Listen, Affirm, Respond, Ask Questions](#).

PROJECT 5: Get Involved With Petitions

Research a petition on [Change.org](#) or [ACLU.org](#) that is important to you and sign it! Next, have a conversation with a friend on your reasons for signing it and about why they should sign and share it, too.

If no petition exists about a cause you care about, [create one of your own](#) and share with at least four friends.

PROJECT 6: Gamify Your Media Literacy

Complete or play one (or more!) of these quizzes or games:

- How sharp are your AI skills? [Take this quiz through the News Literacy Project](#) and see if you can answer these questions correctly.
- How sharp are your misinformation senses? [Take this quiz through the News Literacy Project](#) and see if you can answer these three questions correctly.
- Do you know how to spot bias, verify information, and judge credibility in the news? [Play the NewsFeed Defenders game through iCivics Education](#) and see how well you’d moderate an online

news source!

PROJECT 7: Make Art for Change

Art can be used as an instrument to inspire social and political change. Read the article [“The Art of Social Change”](#) from the Tate art museum and create a piece of art that calls attention to an issue that matters to you. You can draw, paint, write a poem, or use photography.

In addition to filling out the online timesheet, please **send a copy of your creation to teenteam@skokielibrary.info**.

Project 8: Become an Election Judge

The Cook County Clerk’s Office is in need of student election judges (Juniors and Seniors in high school) to help voters and supervise polling place activity on election day, November 5th, 2024. You’ll receive \$250 for your work and it looks great on college applications and job resumes.

Because this is a paid job, we won’t be counting your time at the polls as service hours; however, if you participate and reflect on your experience in the time sheet, you will receive an hour of service.

Visit the [High School Student Election Judges](#) website for more details and to sign up!



5215 Oakton Street | Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-7774 | skokielibrary.info