Taste of Diversity

What it is During this event Red Cross Clubs and youth volunteers prepare popular dishes from other countries around the world where the Red Cross provides services. The dishes are sold to raise money for the Red Cross.

How it helps Money donated to the Red Cross supports its lifesaving mission including responding to disasters, collecting blood donations, or assisting military members and their families. This is also a great event to share with people the great work the Red Cross does in other countries.

Get started Before beginning, contact your local Red Cross chapter or Service to Armed Forces (SAF) station for assistance. You can search for your local chapter by zip code on redcross.org—when you call the chapter, ask to speak to someone who works with youth volunteers. They will be able to guide you to available resources that can make this an impactful and successful event. Once you have established contact with your chapter, there are three steps you should complete

1. Start planning! Set a date, draft a letter asking permission to host the dinner at school or at a local community center, discuss ticket prices, and how the dishes will be sold.

2. Make a list of items and supplies needed. Tables, chairs, plates, forks, serving utensils, and more. Make a list of places you can ask for donated items.

3. Create a menu! Make dishes from countries with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. View a list of the Global Red Cross Network locations **here**. Create posters with information about the Red Cross work in the country and the dish. Make sure to include dishes from the U.S. and highlight the work of the American Red Cross.

Want more information? Email us!

youthinvolvement@redcross.org

DID YOU KNOW?

The National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies provide services in over 180 countries around the world.

American Red Cross

What's Next?

Find more information and details about planning in the Timeline resource.

- Determine how the dishes will be sold. Will people pay one price and eat buffet style or purchase food tickets and use to sample different items?

- Recruit volunteers to help. You'll need people to cook the dishes (ask family and family friends!), to promote the event, help with event set up and clean up, sell tickets, and much more. See the timeline resource for more details.

- Finalize the menu and details for bringing prepared foods to school. Make sure all cooking volunteers who are preparing dishes know by what day and time they are to have dishes prepared.

- Start promoting the event when you have a location and date secured. Share via local websites, online, and word of mouth.

- Ask your local Red Cross unit for materials to share during the event. Invite Red Cross employees to attend the event and answer questions.

The event is over and it was a great success! Thank all volunteers, share the total amount raised, and present the money to the local Red Cross unit. Also, give the unit any email addresses of people who said they were interested in receiving more information about the Red Cross. Check out other Activity Guides on RedCrossYouth.org and plan another project.

This guide was inspired by a guide created by the Red Cross Club at the University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign.

Before beginning, contact your local Red Cross chapter for assistance. You can find chapter information at **redcross.org**.

Shake it up!

» Are there any popular restaurants in your community? Request for the head chef to make an appearance at the dinner or even donate a dish.

» Offer international activities like henna tattoos on hands or a demonstration of traditional dancing.

» Ask attendees to vote on their favorite dishes. Award prizes to the top three dishes with the highest votes.

Show and tell

» Share pictures and videos of your Taste of Diversity event by sending them to **youthinvolvement@ redcross.org.**

» Share pictures and videos on social media accounts. Remember to use hashtags!

Resources

» Planning timeline
» Taste of Diversity flyer

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