

2008 Medical Reserve Corps National Leadership and Training Conference



Prepared Volunteers, Resilient Communities, Strong Nation



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Working with Youth Volunteers in the MRC: The Junior MRC and HOSA/MRC Partnership

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Common Questions

- **Why work with volunteers under age 18?**
- **What can youth do in an MRC?**
- **What about liability? Isn't it too risky?**
- **Are youth mature enough to handle the responsibilities of volunteering with the MRC? Are you putting them into situations they might not be able to handle emotionally or physically?**
- **How do we start working with youth in our MRC?**

The Junior

Medical Reserve Corps

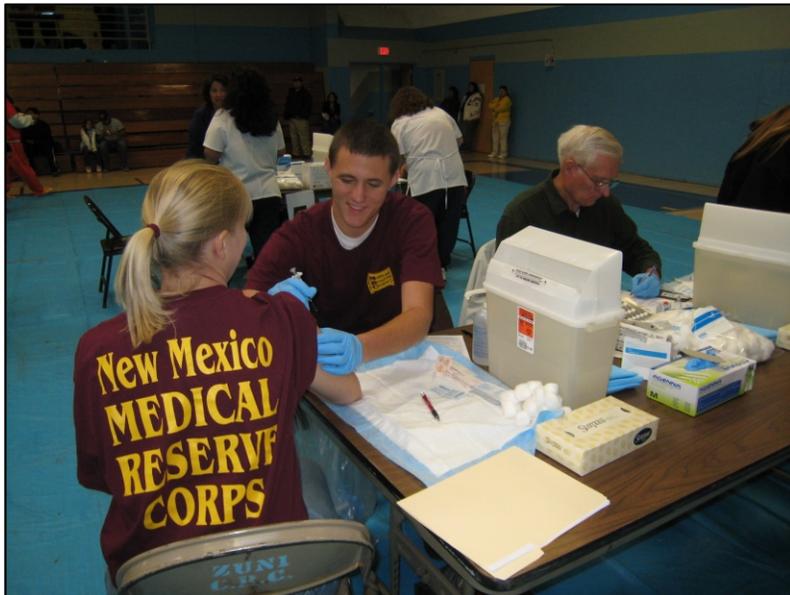
La Cueva Junior MRC

- Invited guest speakers to talk to Jr. MRC about careers in medicine
- Created disaster education display for career fair
- Staffed phone bank for tornado response
- Assisted paramedics at Special Olympics
- Requested by New Mexico Department of Health to serve as screeners for a possible measles outbreak



Bosque School Junior MRC

- Became licensed Emergency Medical Technicians
- Provide coverage at school athletic events
- Served as “injectors” during pandemic flu exercise



Alamogordo High School Junior MRC

- Incorporated the MRC into Health Science Technology curriculum
- Partnered with local university to offer First Responder, EMT Basic and CNA courses



Why work with volunteers under age 18?

- Working with youth benefits the MRC unit**
- Working with youth benefits the
community**

What can youth do in an MRC?

- Phone bank
- Administrative assistance
- Logistics support
- First aid stations
- Health education programs
- Immunization clinics
- Shadow professional volunteers
- Organize blood drives
- Serve as EMTs in the community

What about liability?

- **Varies by state**
- **Determined by sponsoring organization**

Maturity and Safety of Youth Volunteers

- **Know the volunteers**
- **Have supervision**
- **Use discernment when deciding in which activities to involve youth**
- **Always have parental consent**
- **As with adult volunteers, have behavioral health professionals available if needed**

How do we start working with youth in our MRC?

- **Collaborate with or start a Junior MRC unit**
- **Lower the minimum required age to become an MRC volunteer**
- **Collaborate with an existing youth organization, such as Health Occupations Students of America**