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## Recreation Department Seeks High School Committee Members



The Village of Orland Park Recreation Department invites high school age residents to join its S.T.R.I.K.E. (Supportive Teens Responding In Kindness Everywhere) Committee.

"The village's high school committee is a great way for area teens to get involved in different facets of the community," said Recreation Program Supervisor Kelly Messinger who oversees the group.

Each month, the teen members choose a local service project for a Saturday or Sunday. Past projects have included a food and collection drive for military dogs and their handlers, volunteering at Victory Reins Therapeutic Riding Center and Illinois Horse Rescue of Will County. Last year, S.T.R.I.K.E. teens completed training to volunteer at Peace Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc. and will be hosting a collection for the South Suburban Humane Society on October 19th at the Cultural Center from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

"The village's S.T.R.I.K.E. teens volunteer their time for these great causes and also learn valuable life lessons," said Janine Hozzian, the group's coordinator. "The monthly service projects are a great way to learn about the world around them, working with causes close to their hearts, animals, or setting career goals. Being involved in the committee offers a mutually beneficial relationship between local businesses and the high school teens who will one day be the leaders in our community," she said. "These teens go out into the community to make a difference and help people, yet at the same time they're learning along the way."

Described as more than an opportunity to complete community service hours for graduation, the village's S.T.R.I.K.E. Committee works to positively impact people's lives. Students are responsible for planning service projects, generating new ideas and seeing them through.

"Our past groups graduated high school with great memories and lifelong friendships," Messinger said. "There are a number of seniors in the group now who are in their last year of service and they want to share all that they've created with a new group that will continue to have a positive presence within the community, setting an example for those who follow," she added.

The village's S.T.R.I.K.E. Committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Orland Park Cultural Center, 14760 Park Lane. Questions may be directed to Messinger at 708/403-6144. The group's next meeting is Wednesday, October 16 and all area high schoolers are invited to attend to learn more, share ideas, propose service projects and get involved.