Volunteering in Australia

I would highly recommend that students visit Volunteering Australia [www.volunteerinaustralia.org](http://www.volunteerinaustralia.org) and Volunteering Victoria [http://www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au/](http://www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au/) which are hubs for volunteering information and include information for student volunteers.


There are a number of large charities in Australia which students may like to approach. These include The Smith Family who help disadvantaged children and their families: [http://www.thsmithfamily.com.au/site/page.cfm?u=30&gclid=CL3Jj-CnyJ0CFYctpAodAhynrQ](http://www.thsmithfamily.com.au/site/page.cfm?u=30&gclid=CL3Jj-CnyJ0CFYctpAodAhynrQ)

The St Vincent De Paul Society who provide a wide range of services for marginalised groups within Australia such as the homeless, aged, people dealing with addiction, people with disabilities, people in poverty and crisis and many more. They have a wide range of opportunities for volunteering. Their website is [http://www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)

The Good Friday Appeal is a massive Victorian fundraiser held each Easter for the royal Children’s Hospital and always requires volunteers. See [http://goodfridayappeal.com.au/](http://goodfridayappeal.com.au/)

There is a branch of the Red Cross in Australia. Australian Red Cross is active in every State and Territory in Australia, and provides over 60 community services, ranging from blood supplies and disaster services to first aid and refugee services. [http://www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)

With our unique environment and wildlife students may be interested in conservation volunteering. Conservation Volunteers offers a website which is a hub for these kinds of opportunities. See [http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/](http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/) Large organisations in this field include the World Wide Fund for Nature [http://www.wwf.org.au/](http://www.wwf.org.au/) and Greenpeace [http://www.greenpeace.org/australia/](http://www.greenpeace.org/australia/) both of whom should have organisations in the USA which students could approach before leaving home. The Wilderness Society [http://www.wilderness.org.au](http://www.wilderness.org.au) is another great Australian Green organisation. Students may also be
interested in getting involved with CERES (Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies) Environment Park in the inner city suburb of Brunswick http://www.ceres.org.au/ It’s a lot of fun and has involvement from lots of ‘young people’ (say 18 – 30). Wildlife Victoria could give opportunities to students interested in our unique wildlife. See http://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au/ They have an office in the inner city suburb of Fitzroy.

The National Trust is an advocate for heritage and conservation, particularly for historic buildings, landmarks etc. They have a branch in East Melbourne. Their website is http://www.nattrust.com.au/

Students interested in volunteering to support people with disabilities may like to contact The House With No Steps http://www.hwns.com.au/ which has been established for over 45 years and helps meet the needs of children and adults with disabilities.

There are a number of excellent community radio stations in Melbourne which students may like to get involved with. These include SYN FM (The Student Youth Network Inc. based at RMIT Melbourne) http://syn.org.au/ 3CR (a truly diverse broadcaster representing a very wide range of interest groups) http://www.3cr.org.au/ PBS FM (Public Broadcasting Service) http://www.pbs.org.au/ and RRR http://www.rrr.org.au/. Melbourne also has a community television station called Channel 31 which is volunteer based and hosts a very wide range of programs on many different topics. Their website is http://www.c31.org.au/