

we need more

HEROES



Blood Centers
of the Pacific

Approximately half of the nation's blood supply is collected at blood drives like yours. For every person in need of blood, the simple act of giving is heroic.

Give blood. Be a hero.

Blood Drive Success **A Guide for High School** **Blood Drive Coordinator**

Blood Drive: _____
Time/Date: _____

Location: _____

Goal: _____

Checklist for Success

Target Date

Build a super recruitment team! Your organization may be sponsoring the drive, but you can still bring in athletes, student government leaders, faculty members, other club representatives, etc. Include juniors and sophomores so that they have experience for future drives. Some schools have a meeting of all organization presidents or chairpersons to encourage them to invite their members to donate.

Generate publicity! Ask for announcements in the school newspaper and on the PA system. Give five-minute speeches in classrooms to explain the drive and ask for support. Announce the drive on the marquee. Hang posters and place tent cards in gathering areas.

Create excitement! Encourage competition: boys vs. girls, band vs. chorus, etc. You could even compete with a cross-town rival to see which school can recruit the most donors. Use a large thermometer in a main hall or cafeteria to mark progress toward your goal as people sign up to donate. Hang banners in the gym, halls or parking lot.

Inform potential donors. Arrange to show videos from Blood Centers of Pacific (BCP) in classrooms, at an assembly or in study hall. Staff information tables and hand out BCP literature in major traffic areas. Send a letter, flier or postcard to all juniors and seniors to let them know about the upcoming drive. Work with the librarian to prepare a display or book exhibit in the library or in hall display cases.

Don't forget the faculty! Involve the school nurse to the extent that he or she is willing. Keep faculty — especially club and organization advisors — informed and invite them to donate. Place tent cards and posters in the faculty lounges and offices.

Follow up! Make sure the committee and the blood drive are included in the yearbook. Ask the newspaper to run pictures from the drive along with the results. Create an honor roll of those who volunteered to donate and post it in a central location before and after the drive. Ask the principal to write a thank-you letter that you can send to all donors. Thank everyone involved, using PA announcements, newspaper stories, thank-you notes, awards, etc.

This guide is the product of experience, ideas and suggestions that have worked for many blood drive coordinators. It contains the “nuts and bolts” for coordinating a successful blood drive.

Who can donate blood?

Blood donors are healthy men and women who weigh at least 110 pounds and are 17 years or older. Anyone who is at risk of catching or spreading AIDS must not donate blood. Please contact BCP for a copy of our donor qualifications.

What’s it like to donate?

The entire donation process takes less than an hour and begins with a brief interview. Next, temperature, pulse, blood pressure and blood iron level are checked.

The whole process — from the beginning to refreshments — takes about an hour. That includes registration, a mini-physical and medical history — and refreshments. The actual donation time is several minutes. (At some blood drives, BCP uses special blood collection technology to customize the donation for each donor and better match donations to patient needs. Actual donation times vary, depending on the blood collection system that is used. Your BCP representative can provide the details.) All materials are sterile and disposable — used once, then thrown away. You cannot get AIDS or any other infectious disease by donating blood.

Afterward, donors rest and enjoy light refreshments, then resume their normal routine.

What happens after the donation?

All donated blood is typed to determine A-B-O group and Rh factor and tested for safety, including tests to detect HIV and other viruses. Most units of blood are separated into components, allowing one donation to help several people!

Aim for a goal.

You and your BCP representative will determine an achievable goal for your blood drive. Share the goal with your recruitment team members and establish a specific number of blood drive heroes (donors) for each to recruit, based on the size of the department or group they represent.

When’s the best time for a blood drive?

Your BCP representative will work with you to set a date. Remember, patients need blood 365 days a year, so you may be asked to schedule one or more of your blood drives close to a holiday.

Set your sights on a site.

The best blood drive site will have:

- Clean, ample space with adequate lighting, ventilation and electrical outlets
- Tables and chairs for waiting, interview and refreshment areas
- Privacy for donors completing the interview and medical history
- Nearby telephone and restroom

If your drive is open to the public, hold it at a familiar place with plenty of parking. Reserve the site now for the upcoming drive, and for future drives.

Commit to a committee.

A blood drive recruitment team of outgoing, dependable people will help assure that your organization meets its blood drive goal. Be sure to involve someone from the top leadership of your group or organization. The committee’s main job is: *recruitment!* People respond best when personally asked to donate. Inform team members about the community blood program, the need for blood in your area, what it’s like to donate blood and what happens to blood after it’s donated. (For more recruitment tips, see “Get personal!” on page 4.)

Your community blood program.

BCP, the first community-based blood bank in the nation, was founded in 1941 by two San Francisco physicians who were seeking a way to store blood for later use – by both our military and by our community hospitals. Currently, we have 12 different locations and hundreds of mobile blood drives throughout Northern California. BCP provides blood and blood components to 41 hospitals throughout our service area, including all San Francisco hospitals. BCP needs to collect approximately 140,000 pints of blood each year from volunteer blood donors.

Repeat donors: Bring 'em back!

Many people who donate on a regular basis will say yes when asked to pledge to donate again. BCP can provide a computer list of previous donors from your organization or community. Use this list to contact donors — either in person or by phone. Many communities, churches and clubs form a telephone committee. Sometimes you may use the list to help the blood center collect specific types of blood in the quantities needed by calling only donors with those blood types. When you and your team members contact repeat donors to participate in the upcoming blood drive, ask them to bring a friend — a new donor!

Get the word out!

BCP offers a variety of materials that may include posters, pledge forms, fliers, tent cards, banners, postcards, stickers and other tools for publicizing your blood drive. Many companies, schools and groups have their own newsletters, Web sites or in-house Intranets. Make arrangements to have an article in yours. Include date, time and place information as well as a motivational message, perhaps even a quote from the CEO, president or leader. Your BCP representative can provide text and electronic or camera-ready art for your article.

Care for a cookie?

The blood center may routinely provide refreshments for donors. Some blood drive sponsors provide donated or homemade treats. If your group supplies refreshments, you'll want someone to handle the details.

Many hands.

Your group may be asked to provide volunteers the day of the blood drive to greet donors, serve refreshments or perform other duties. If your group is providing volunteers, ask your BCP representative about training for them and assign someone to coordinate their activities.

From sign-up to show-up.

An appointment schedule cuts down donors' waiting time, minimizes interference in their daily routine, helps you and your team accurately measure progress toward your goal and helps to assure the community's blood needs are met. Donors with appointments are more likely to participate! If you and your BCP representative decide to use an on-line schedule, donors can make their own appointments.

Your blood drive's appointment schedule is completed using donors' on-line appointments and/or pledge information from your recruitment team. A copy goes to the BCP blood drive supervisor the day of the drive.

Provide recognition.

After the drive, it is important to thank all who donated, as well as those who tried. Don't forget the people who recruited the donors, publicized the drive, provided refreshments or assisted on the day of the drive. Let your top person know the results and give credit to those who helped. Your BCP representative can provide suggestions and materials for recognizing your blood drive heroes.

Evaluate the results.

What did you and your team do to make your blood drive successful? Are there things you would do differently next time? Was one group or department outstanding? What did it do? Review the blood drive with your team and your BCP representative. Remember, now you have an experienced recruitment team in place so, the next drive will be even easier and more successful!

Get personal!

The most important ingredient in creating a successful blood drive is personal contact. Studies show one reason people do not donate blood is because **NO ONE EVER ASKED!** So, how do you ask?

Ask **face to face**. Ask with **confidence**. Be **enthusiastic**...it's contagious! **Acknowledge** the concerns of the prospective donor and refer to BCP literature to answer questions. **Ask** for a pledge commitment and make a donation appointment.

Explain that giving blood is one of the most important, rewarding and compassionate things a person can do. Keep your approach positive and remember these key points:

Blood donors save lives. Several of them, in fact, because each donation can be separated into different components: red blood cells, used by surgery patients; plasma, given to those who bleeding from liver disease or severe injuries; platelets, often needed by patients with cancer; and cryoprecipitate, a special blood clotting factor used to help people with hemophilia.

There is no substitute for blood. It cannot be manufactured. It is the "gift of life" that only human beings can give to one another.

There is little, if any, pain. Donors might feel a slight pinch, but it lasts only for an instant.

Donors go through a pre-screening process to assure they are healthy and eligible to donate.

Notes: