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Volunteers Peter Johnson, and Janet Demarest, above, at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration. At left, volunteers James and Winnie Brennan.



doinggood

## Volunteering for a good time

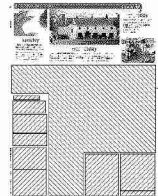
BY JIM MERRITT  
Special to Newsday

**W**ith both U.S. presidential candidates calling Americans to service as part of

their campaign themes, Long Islanders may wonder whether there will be an altruistic resurgence this year, and if so, how they can catch that wave of volunteerism.

Of course, you could volunteer for the local fire department or hospital, or stuff envelopes and answer phones for a candidate. However, opportunities also abound on a smaller, quirkier scale. Here are some decidedly different ways to donate your time and enthusiasm, ranging from dog-walker to bio-blitzer.

**Bideawee**



3300 Beltagh Ave., Wantagh; 118 Old Country Rd., Westhampton

**WEB** [bideaweeweb.org](http://bideaweeweb.org)

**TASK** Dog-walker

**THE FUN PART** Unconditional love. Volunteers enjoy "being outside and bonding with the dog," says Bideaweeweb representative Alesia Soltanpanah. And when Snoopy has found a home, she adds, "It's such a great feeling to know that the dog you walked last week was adopted." Added benefit: Walking is apparently as good an exercise for dogs

as it is for humans.

**THE CATCH** Scooping poop.

**WHAT YOU NEED** Must love animals and be at least 18. Need a two-hour class and a six-month commitment.

**CONTACT** Volunteer manager Dolores Stormo (Wantagh, 516-785-4199) or Heidi Gaumet (Westhampton, 631-288-0591).

**OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:** Volunteers are also needed by the League for Animal Protection of Huntington, which walks dogs at the Town of Huntington animal shelter. You must be at least 18 and take a brief training course. Call 631-757-9373 or e-mail [Lapdogz@msn.com](mailto:Lapdogz@msn.com).

## Old Bethpage Village Restoration

Round Swamp Road, Old Bethpage

**WEB** [nassaucountyny.gov](http://nassaucountyny.gov)

**TASK** Costumed tour guide

**THE FUN PART** Dressing up even when it's not Halloween. Women don long dresses and men wear black hats as they discuss the families who lived and worked in homes, farms and businesses at the re-created mid-19th century village.

**THE CATCH** \$50 deposit for the costume

**WHAT YOU NEED** Public speaking abilities and an interest in history.

Needle- or woodworking skills are a plus. Ages 14 and up.

**CONTACT** Volunteer coordinator Judy Pockriss (516-572-8416)

## Long Island Traditions

382 Main St., Port Washington

**WEB** [longislandtraditions.org](http://longislandtraditions.org)

**TASK** Guiding filmmakers, baymen, decoy carvers, and other "tradition bearers" at the Nov. 9 Maritime Film Festival at the Stony Brook University Student Activities Center.

**THE FUN PART** Free admission to a film festival that costs others \$15.

Among the 15 films scheduled are "Jones Beach: An American Riviera," by Long Island-based documentary filmmaker George P. Pozdrec, and the pilot episode of "The Deadliest Catch."

**THE CATCH** Need to commit four hours of your time.

**WHAT YOU NEED** A campus map and a good sense of direction.

**CONTACT** Executive director Nancy Solomon, 516-767-8803.

## Center for Science Teaching and Learning

1 Tanglewood Rd.,  
Rockville Centre

(Tanglewood Preserve)

**WEB** [cstl.org](http://cstl.org)

**TASK** Participating in a "bio-blitz," described as a "24-hour inventory of all living organisms in a given area," such as a local waterway or nature preserve.

**THE FUN PART** Helping to save the planet. You'll be working with scientists and other volunteers to identify plants and animals.

**THE CATCH** One word: mosquitoes

**WHAT YOU NEED** Long pants, a long-sleeve shirt and sneakers. The center provides nets and binoculars.

**CONTACT** RayAnn Havasy (516-764-0045) to set up a time to volunteer.

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