

# News & Commentary

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## Volunteer Administration Profession Gaining Respect

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Once considered a job for “nice people helping others do good,” volunteer administration is gaining respect as a profession, says the Association for Volunteer Administration (AVA).

By the fall of 1992, 56 educational institutions were offering coursework in working with volunteers; 20 percent offer advanced degrees or certificates in the subject.

The need for professionally trained staff—paid or unpaid—to work with volunteers has increased as

community concerns have become more complex and time outside of work and family responsibilities has shrunk. Volunteers need support from individuals skilled in providing encouragement, leadership development, evaluation and recognition. Without that support, volunteers burn out or find other activities to occupy their limited free time.

Information: AVA, P.O. Box 4584, Boulder CO 80306, (302) 541-0238.



## Association for Volunteer Administration

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The Association for Volunteer Administration (AVA) is a national organization of professionals who work with volunteers. AVA was founded in 1971 and has since grown to become the largest and most active organization of its kind. AVA's primary purpose is to advance the field of volunteer administration through research, education, and professional development. AVA provides a variety of services to its members, including access to a national database of volunteer opportunities, a journal, and a newsletter. AVA also offers a variety of educational programs, including workshops, seminars, and conferences. AVA is committed to the highest standards of professional practice and to the advancement of the field of volunteer administration.

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