

# BBYO Stand UP

## Choosing the Right Organizations

Once you have decided upon a cause that you want to work on for the year you must find the right local organizations to volunteer with, donate to, and advocate for.

*Why are local organizations so important to my chapters' BBYO Stand UP cause?*

- Finding a local organization brings your project closer to home
- It also allows you to better see the effects of your service, advocacy, and philanthropy

Scenario: Our chapter's BBYO Stand UP cause is hunger. There are so many people in our own community who go hungry. How do we find organizations that help our neighbors?

*How do I find a local organization?*

- Be specific in your search. Include locations in your search field.  
For example: Typing "hunger organizations" into a search engine will yield some of the largest organizations in the country. They might have local chapters, but often support and proceeds go to a national umbrella organization. Instead, type in "hunger Montgomery County" to find an organization in Montgomery County, MD that deals with hunger.
- Do research!
  - How much of the money donated to their organization goes towards those in need, and how much goes towards running the organization? A good organization keeps their administrative fees at less than 4% of all money raised.
  - Is there an age requirement for volunteers? If they require volunteers to be 16 or older, that would rule out half of your chapter.
  - Do they have materials that you can use to educate people about the issue?

*I found an organization...now what?*

- Contact the organization, explain what BBYO Stand UP is, and find out how you can volunteer, donate money, or work with the organization to publicize events or issues that they care about!
- **Start your conversations with the volunteer coordinator by asking them what they need from you – the best way to support an organization is to do what they need.**

Scenario: My chapter wants to plant vegetables at an urban garden, but the garden said all they need us to do this week is shovel soil. Isn't there a better use of my time???

Remember that the garden can't plant the vegetables until someone has dug up the soil, so the best use of your time is to help them shovel.