



**American
Red Cross**

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Your 16-year-old has expressed an interest in donating at an upcoming American Red Cross blood drive. Fortunately, many states across the country have established laws or regulations allowing 16 year olds to support the public health in their communities by donating blood. By participating in the blood drive, your son or daughter will gain experience in community responsibility and will feel the joy that accompanies an act of altruism.

The American Red Cross, as well as most state laws, requires that 16-year olds receive written permission from their parent or guardian prior to donating blood. We need your assistance in helping us meet this requirement by completing the attached parental consent for blood donation. **Please be sure to read “A Student’s Guide to Blood Donation” and the “Information for Parents” on the back of the permission form** so you understand the donation process before signing the consent form. It is important to remember that getting a good night’s sleep the night before the drive, eating a nutritious breakfast and lunch the day of donation and drinking a few extra glasses of water in the days prior to donation can improve the donation experience for your son or daughter.

We support each student’s willingness to give the gift of life and ask that you offer your encouragement. Much like voting and driving a car, the opportunity to donate blood and save a life has become a right of passage for thousands of high school students. The choice to become a blood donor is a very personal decision, and we understand that parents and students may be somewhat apprehensive about taking this step. This is completely normal, and therefore if you have any questions on the information in any of the attached documents please call 1-800-GIVE- LIFE.

You should be very proud of your son or daughter’s decision to donate at the upcoming blood drive. Please help support this act of generosity by completing the permission form. Please remind your son or daughter to bring the signed permission form and a photo ID to the blood drive.

Thank you for your support,

Patricia T Pisciotto, MD

John W. Burch, M.D.

Chief Medical Officers
American Red Cross Blood Services
Northeast Division