The Emory G.I.V.E. Community: You too can Be a GIVER!

The GDBBS Involved Volunteerism at Emory (GIVE) is an organization that offers Emory students the opportunity to volunteer and give back to their community. The mission of GIVE is simply to foster student participation in outreach activities organized by members of the GIVE executive committee. We plan activities with intentions to provide services that will deepen connection and commitment to several communities affiliated with Emory University.

As far as volunteering goes, the G.I.V.E. executive committee members are actively involved in coordinating volunteer opportunities near Emory and within the metro-Atlanta areas. One such place is the Trees Atlanta, a non-profit group dedicated to planting, preserving, and protecting the trees in the city. In support of their hard work, GIVE dedicated GIVE DAY to help Trees Atlanta as well as the Woodlands Garden of Decatur, and Gateway Center to help maintain the trees that were already planted.

As Graduate students, we all need some outlet that helps us decompress and recharge from the stressful life of being students and research scientists. For three years now, GIVE offers indoors and outdoors experiences for students to help volunteer at animal shelters or get hands-on-experience pulling weeds, clearing debris, and mulching the trees while talking about life, science, and everything else. This is an opportunity to meet other students, to get in touch with Nature and extend a few pairs of helping hands while feeling great about it.
Although the majority of students that participate in the GIVE events are Graduate students, we also have Undergraduate students who also take time from their busy school schedule to come and help. A great example of this is the Saturday Fernbank Science Center events that GIVE hosts during the spring and summer.

After hours in the sun, pulling out weeds and mulching around all the newly planted trees, we return to Emory campus for a picnic-style lunch. Food and drinks for all.
The hours we spent toiling in the dirt and sun slowly fades away as people enjoyed each other’s company and the delicious foods we’ve ordered from one of Emory’s preferred vendors. All in all, the GIVE volunteer events are a win-win because we all get to help out in the Emory community while at the same time we are building networks, friendships, and a strong sense of community.

So next time you see an e-mail advertising a GIVE event please feel free to contact anyone from the GIVE executive committee and come out and join us. GIVE back to the community and feel great doing so.