

Hosting a Bone Marrow Donor Recruitment Drive – A Brief Overview

Our organization depends upon volunteers, not just as bone marrow donors, but as advocates for the process of donation and champions for joining the Registry. Thank you for your support in bringing hope and life-saving treatments to patients in need of transplantation.

Support

- Hosting a registration event should cost you nothing but time and effort. We provide the instruction and materials you will need to be successful.
- First, assess the level of support you can expect from your installation Command.
- Our program cannot provide material assistance until you have secured Command approval.

Timing

- Be realistic in your planning. It takes an average of six and eight weeks to properly prepare for an event after you secure Command approval.
- Before proposing dates, review the installation's calendar for conflicting events. Avoid scheduling during exercises, inspections, or the Combined Federal Campaign.
- In traditional drives, the registrants come to you at a given time and location, in unit-based drives, you go to them based upon their scheduled availability. When deciding what type of drive to hold, consider the size and structure of the installation, location and schedule of your intended audience, and amount of available assistance. Our Recruitment Department can help you decide a best-fit approach.

Assistance

- One person can host a drive, but it will be short in duration and small in reach. If you want to have more impact, you will need to locate helping hands.
- There are never too many volunteers. Not only are there a lot of tasks to be completed, but you will need to account for scheduling shifts, bathroom and meal breaks, and last-minute absentees.
- Drives held to in support of an individual in need of a transplant are commendable – but we must temper expectations. It is highly unlikely that a match will be located at your registration event.

Education

- Your goal should be recruiting donors who are well-educated and firmly committed to the donation process. One informed, dedicated donor is worth more than a hundred half-hearted ones (who do not follow-through when they are contacted as a match for a patient).
- The best approach is a layered one – offering many learning opportunities in multiple different formats.
- You get out what you put in. The number of registrants enrolling at your event will be a direct product of the amount of effort you put into your educational and promotional activities.

Contact our Recruitment Department at recruiting@dodmarrow.org or 1-800-MARROW-3, x223.

Our staff will provide the resources you need to approach your installation Command.

We will also help you assess your resources, estimate your goals, and plan your event's next-steps.

