

# News Release



## **Big Ten Schools' Donate 7,622 Pints of Blood through the American Red Cross during the Big Ten Challenge**

After a month of good-natured rivalry, Penn State University and the University of Minnesota walked away with awards from the American Red Cross Big Ten Blood Drive Challenge. However, the real winners from this friendly competition were patients in need across the United States who could benefit from the 7,622 pints of blood donated by students, faculty and staff at the 11 Big Ten universities, exceeding the goal of 7,000 blood donations.

Penn State University received the award for the highest number of blood donations with more than 1,500 pints donated from January 19 through February 19. They also had the highest percentage of student population donating blood with nearly four percent. The school with the highest percent of goal achievement (based on school blood drive goal and actual number of pints donated) was the University of Minnesota.

The Big Ten universities stepped up to support the Red Cross and the patients who rely on blood transfusions. This was the first year of the challenge and the Red Cross hopes it continues to grow in the years to come.

### **How to Donate Blood**

Simply call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) or visit [givebloodgivelife.org](http://givebloodgivelife.org) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license, or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental permission in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

### **About the American Red Cross**

Governed by volunteers and supported by giving individuals and communities, the American Red Cross is the single largest supplier of blood products to hospitals throughout the United States. While local hospital needs are always met first, the Red Cross also helps ensure no patient goes without blood no matter where or when they need it. In addition to providing nearly half of the nation's blood supply, the Red Cross provides relief to victims of disaster, trains millions in lifesaving skills, serves as a communication link between U.S. military members and their families, and assists victims of international disasters or conflicts.

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