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## Red Cross Blood Drive Set in Dexter

JULY 22ND 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Dexter, MO - Dexter Parks and Recreation will host a Blood Drive on Thursday, July 29th at 500 Fair Ground Drive from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Sponsor Code: DexterCommunity

As summer weather heats up and the pandemic continues, it can be hard to keep spirits up. It's sometimes difficult to feel connected to the wider community. We have an easy way to help others and help yourself: give blood! Donating blood is a safer way to get out of the house and socialize. You can enjoy the warm, cozy feeling of knowing you were of service to others. You may even find yourself making a new friend (at a safe distance)!

There is an ongoing need for blood, and your single donation could help save more than one life. Will you step up to give this month?

### **Platelets and type AB plasma also needed**

Platelet donors and those with type AB blood are also continually needed to help ensure patients receive the lifesaving blood products they need. Platelets – a key clotting component of blood often needed by cancer patients, surgical patients and bone marrow recipients – must be transfused within five days of donation, so donations are constantly needed. Donors with type AB blood are urged to give blood or platelets to restock the plasma supply. Type AB donors have the universal plasma type, which can be given to patients of all blood types.

## How to donate blood

The free Blood Donor App – available in app stores by searching for American Red Cross or by texting BLOODAPP to 90999 – not only makes appointment scheduling easy, but donors can also access their digital donor card and be notified when their donation is distributed to a hospital. Donors can also visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) 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 consent 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.

Blood donors in the Missouri-Illinois Blood Services Region can now save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, prior to arriving at the blood drive. To get started and learn more, visit [redcrossblood.org/RapidPass](http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass) and follow the instructions on the site.

## About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).

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