

## S08-2 Promoting Volunteer Activities to Grow Together

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### **Acceptance of volunteering students**

The Hino Social Education Center was created and is being operated jointly by Hino City and the Social Education Society (SES) to promote citizens' social education. By participating in activities involving contact with nature with friends during childhood and adolescence, one becomes able to 1) develop the ability to decide things independently, 2) dependently decide his or her own course of life, and 4) become able to take responsibility for his or her own decisions and activities. In order to promote such activities, volunteer leaders who can take the leadership in initiating such activities together with others. We work to educate such leaders among university students.

### **Aiming at fostering independent members of society**

We wish leaders who participate in our activities to become more independent themselves while interacting with children in recreational activities and events such as camps. We hope that they learn not only “how to do” but also educate themselves to become independent members of society through learning together about children.

### **Putting importance on building up a relationship effective to support with each other to grow together**

We provide to leaders opportunities for them to present their knowledge and skills they acquire in their respective fields such as biology (animals and plants), crafts, music, drugs, etc. in order to attract attention of children and adolescents.

After participating in activities with children for a few months, students from the Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Sciences proposed that they talk about drugs to children and their mothers. After the class, parents made favorable comments such as “I could obtain useful information which is difficult to obtain in our daily life” and “I am pleased to know that our leaders are learning a lot of things. I want to support them more strongly.” This experience greatly motivated students. They continued volunteer activities for several more years thereafter, and their activities were highly appreciated by people in the community.