

Red Cross NC Region
2425 Park Road
Charlotte, N.C. 28203
Redcross.org/NC



American
Red Cross

Media Contact: Sharonne Hayes
Telephone: (980) 699-5124
Sharonne.Hayes@redcross.org
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prevent a winter blood shortage: Give blood or platelets now

*Donors have chance to win trip to Super Bowl LX during National Blood Donor Month
Red Cross, Saquon Barkley huddle up for a lifesaving play in January*

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Jan. 5, 2026 — The American Red Cross is teetering on a blood shortage this winter, which could lead to a disruption in lifesaving care. Donors are urged to make an appointment to give blood or platelets now.

The Red Cross blood supply is under pressure following a busy holiday season when winter weather and packed schedules made it even tougher to ensure hospitals have the blood products needed for critical care. Without immediate action, doctors may have to make difficult decisions about which patients receive blood transfusions and who will need to wait. Donors with types O, A negative and B negative blood are especially needed now.

Don't wait – make an appointment to give blood or platelets now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, downloading the [Red Cross Blood Donor App](https://RedCrossBlood.org/DonorApp) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

For the seventh year, the Red Cross and the National Football League (NFL) are partnering in January for National Blood Donor Month to urge individuals to kick off 2026 with a blood donation. As a thank-you to donors for helping address the need for blood during the critical post-holiday time, those who come to give Jan. 1-25, 2026, will be automatically entered for a chance to win an exciting Super Bowl LX giveaway. The winner and guest will get to enjoy Super Bowl LX in Santa Clara, California, access to day-of in-stadium pregame activities, tickets to the official Super Bowl Experience, round-trip airfare, three-night hotel accommodations (Feb. 6-9, 2026), plus a \$1,000 gift card for expenses. For full details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.

Join a lifesaving team

The Red Cross and Pro Football Champion and blood donor Saquon Barkley are teaming up to remind donors that the best offense against a winter blood shortage is making and keeping blood donation appointments. The blood supply can drop quickly – now's the time to get in the game and give blood or platelets.

"I gave blood once in college and that was the only time I had ever been asked to give, until the Red Cross reached out this fall," said Barkley. "It was a no-brainer for me to give again. It only takes about an hour and once you realize in that short amount of time how much help it can bring – it's a beautiful thing."]

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Jan. 5-31:

Buncombe

Arden

1/20/2026: 2 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Arden Presbyterian Church, 2215 Hendersonville Road

Asheville

1/5/2026: 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/6/2026: 12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/7/2026: 12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/8/2026: 7 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Charles George V.A. Medical Center, 1100 Tunnel Road
1/8/2026: 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Charles George V.A. Medical Center, 1100 Tunnel Road
1/9/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/9/2026: 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., The District, 100 District Dr

1/10/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/11/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/12/2026: 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/12/2026: 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Galen College of Nursing - Asheville Campus, 30 Town Square Blvd
1/13/2026: 12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/14/2026: 12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/16/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/17/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/18/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/19/2026: 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/20/2026: 12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/20/2026: 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Givens Estate Oxford Commons, 400 Wesley Drive
1/21/2026: 12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/23/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/23/2026: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Buncombe County Schools, 175 Bingham Rd
1/24/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/25/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/26/2026: 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/27/2026: 12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/28/2026: 12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road
1/30/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Asheville Blood Donation Center, 100 Edgewood Road

Black Mountain

1/6/2026: 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Black Mountain Neuro Medical Treatment Center, 932 Old U.S. Highway 70
1/8/2026: 1:30 p.m. - 6 p.m., Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, 117 Montreat Road
1/9/2026: 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., First Baptist Church of Black Mountain, 130 Montreat Rd

Candler

1/29/2026: 1:30 p.m. - 6 p.m., Francis Asbury UMC Gym, 725 Asbury Road

Weaverville

1/19/2026: 3 p.m. - 8 p.m., Weaverville United Methodist Church Fellowship Building, 90 N Main St

Cherokee

Andrews

1/12/2026: 1:30 p.m. - 6 p.m., Andrews United Methodist Church, 101 Chestnut Street
1/16/2026: 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Andrews High School, 50 High School Dr

Murphy

1/7/2026: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Tri-County Early College High School, 4700 E U.S. Highway 64 Alt

Topton

1/16/2026: 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Nantahala School, 213 Windingstairs Rd

Clay

Hayesville

1/6/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church Hayesville, 989 Highway 64 Business
1/14/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Clay Co. Community Services Bldg, 25 Riverside Circle
1/30/2026: 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., VFW Post 6812, 333 Ball Park Dr.

Haywood

Canton

1/5/2026: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Pinnacle Church, 101 Fibreville Street

1/12/2026: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., High Street Baptist Church, 73 High St.

Clyde

1/28/2026: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Haywood Regional Medical Center, 75 Leroy George Road

Maggie Valley

1/5/2026: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Maggie Valley Nursing and Rehab, 75 Fisher Loop

Waynesville

1/7/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., First Baptist Church Waynesville, 100 S. Main Street

1/14/2026: 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Senior Resource Center, 81 Elmwood Way

1/15/2026: 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 566 South Haywood Street

1/22/2026: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., VFW Post 5202, 216 Miller Street

1/27/2026: 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Long's Chapel, 133 Old Clyde Rd.

1/27/2026: 1:30 p.m. - 7 p.m., Long's Chapel, 133 Old Clyde Rd.

Henderson

Flat Rock

1/8/2026: 7 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Jabil Flat Rock, 265 Commercial Blvd

1/29/2026: 7 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Jabil Flat Rock, 265 Commercial Blvd

Fletcher

1/22/2026: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, 100 Sierra Nevada Way

Hendersonville

1/9/2026: 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., American Red Cross, 211 1st Avenue East

1/14/2026: 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., American Red Cross, 211 1st Avenue East

1/17/2026: 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Etowah Lions Club, 447 Etowah School Rd

1/19/2026: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Henderson County Offices, 211 1st Ave E

1/22/2026: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., American Red Cross, 211 1st Avenue East

Mills River

1/23/2026: 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Mills River Town Hall, 124 Town Center Dr

Jackson

Cullowhee

1/29/2026: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Western Carolina University, Highway 107

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Sylva

1/13/2026: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Southwestern Community College - Burrell Building, 447 College Drive

1/29/2026: 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Harris Regional Hospital, 68 Hospital Road

Macon

Highlands

1/5/2026: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Community Bible Church, 3645 Cashiers Rd

Madison

Marshall

1/28/2026: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Marshall Library, 1335 N. Main Street

McDowell

Marion

1/13/2026: 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Columbia Forest Products, 369 Columbia Carolina Rd
1/13/2026: 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., West McDowell Middle School, 346 W. McDowell Jr High School Rd
1/21/2026: 1:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Marion Community Building, 191 North Main Street
1/23/2026: 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Eastfield Elementary School, 170 Eastfield School Rd
1/28/2026: 2 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Grace Community Church, 5182 US 70W

Mitchell

Spruce Pine

1/20/2026: 1:30 p.m. - 6 p.m., First Baptist Church of Spruce Pine, 125 Tappan Street

Polk

Columbus

1/15/2026: 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Steps To Hope, 60 Ward Street

Rutherford

Bostic

1/30/2026: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., East Rutherford High School, 331 E High Rd

Forest City

1/15/2026: 3 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Crestview Baptist Church, 630 S Church St
1/24/2026: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Brock Family Care, 289 Shiloh Rd

Lake Lure

1/9/2026: 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Bill's Creek Community Center, 198 Club House Rd

Rutherfordton

1/13/2026: 1:30 p.m. - 6 p.m., Gilkey School Community Center, 217 Gilkey School
1/14/2026: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Rutherford Regional Medical Center, 288 South Ridgecrest Ave.

Swain

Bryson City

1/28/2026: 8:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Swain County High School, 1415 Fontana Road
1/30/2026: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Swain County Health Department, 545 Center Street

Cherokee

1/14/2026: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Yellow Hill Community Center, 1416 Acquoni Rd
1/21/2026: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Cherokee Indian Hospital, 1 Hospital Rd
1/27/2026: 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Cherokee High School, 86 Elk Crossing Ln

Transylvania

Brevard

1/20/2026: 12:30 p.m. - 5 p.m., Transylvania County Parks & Recreation Center, 1078 Ecusta Road
1/23/2026: 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Cindy Platt Boys and Girls Club of Transylvania County, 11 Gallimore Road

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device 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 in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), 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 and platelet donors can 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, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow us on social media.

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