

Volunteering

What to Expect

Volunteering is a partnership between you and the organization you are serving with. The people you serve depend on you to fulfill your obligations as a volunteer.

Your volunteer organization will expect you to:

- Perform your assignments to the best of your ability.
- Honor your commitments
- Be held accountable for your actions.
- Accept directions.
- Cooperate with other volunteers and staff; you are part of a team.
- Respect property, materials and equipment.
- Be open to change and ready to learn new skills.

You should expect your volunteer organization to:

- Give you a sense of belonging to the project
- Provide sufficient training and orientation for you to carry out your volunteer role effectively
- Offer you responsibilities that are challenging and yet within the range of your abilities and interest
- Assign a position that has real purpose and is of value to you
- Be clear in their expectations of you
- Keep you informed
- Respect your opinions and ideas and give them fair consideration

Projects: Nonprofits will do their best to accommodate your interests and skills but please recognize that the organization has a particular project goal and volunteers need to be willing to assist where needed.

Skills: If you have previous experience with a certain skill and would like to utilize it please inform your supervisor. However, this does not ensure that you will be doing this line of work. Also, please inform your supervisor if you have any physical limitations, safety concerns, or are uncomfortable in any situation.

Dress: You will be advised on appropriate dress for the particular volunteer project you are participating in. Comfort is key, but sometimes protective clothing is needed depending on the type of volunteer project. In almost all cases, volunteers should plan to wear closed-toe shoes.

In case of rain: When you sign up for a project, ask if the project will be cancelled in case of rain or other inclement weather. Often volunteers participating in outdoor projects will be

assigned to tasks indoors. Volunteer supervisors are very creative in making the best use of your time and willingness to serve.

Liability Waiver: Each volunteer must complete a Liability Waiver for the organization they are volunteering with. If younger volunteers are allowed, a parent/guardian must sign for minors.