

Teen Volunteer Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is qualified to be a teen volunteer at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC?

Beginning in 2016, to qualify you must be 15 years of age on January 1 for that program year. Teen volunteers who have participated in previous years will be given first priority for available openings. Please keep in mind that there are a limited number of positions that are available and unfortunately we cannot guarantee that all applicants can be accepted into the program.

Teens that turn 18 during their participation in the Teen Volunteer program, will be encouraged to complete additional requirements to become an adult volunteer. Additional information about volunteering as an adult can be found on our website:

<http://www.chp.edu/CHP/hospital+volunteer+program>

What is the time commitment for the Teen Volunteer program?

Each teen volunteer is assigned one 3-to-4 hour shift per week during the course of the program during the Summer months. If you would foresee having to miss some shifts/weeks due to commitments such as travel, sports or other summer activities, we would recommend that you do not apply so that another candidate who is able to participate and complete the minimum requirement of eight weeks/shifts of participation. This program requires the Volunteer Services Department to schedule a large number of volunteers for a short period of time, so we must ask the volunteers who are accepted into the program make every effort to keep their weekly commitment to ensure consistency for everyone involved. If there are openings on the schedule, we may be able to offer additional shifts to those who are interested and proven to be reliable.

How do I apply to be a teen volunteer?

Applications for the Teen Summer Program are accepted in March and April. To apply for this program, please complete and follow all of the steps outlined on the [Teen Volunteer Program web page](#). You will also be required to complete and submit the teen volunteer application (and return via email, fax, mail or drop off) and have two references complete and [submit online reference form](#) on the applicant's behalf.

As this is a very popular program and we have a limited number of positions available, we cannot guarantee that all applicants will be accepted into the program. Teens who have been offered a volunteer position are required to attend one of two Teen Volunteer Orientation Sessions which are offered prior to the start of the program (generally one in late May and another in early June). Attending one of these two sessions is mandatory, so please take that into consideration prior to submitting an application.

Who can teen volunteer applicants use for references?

At least one reference must be completed by your school (i.e. teacher, school personnel, coach, extra curricula activities supervisor, etc.). The other reference can be from a community member (church, employer, recreational sporting group, previous volunteer supervisor, etc.). References from friends or family members cannot be accepted.

I volunteered last year in the Teen Volunteer Program and wish to return this summer. What steps do I need to take?

All previous Teen Volunteer will be contacted early in the calendar year, inviting them back to the program as long as they met the minimum requirements the previous summer. Each will be asked to complete a Returning Teen Volunteer packet. If you have not received your packet by mid-February, please contact the Volunteer Services Department at (412) 692-5185 or via email at volunteercoordinator@chp.edu to have one emailed to you.

In addition to completing this paperwork, all returning volunteers are also required to have a TB test and attend one of two scheduled refresher orientation sessions (usually held in late May and early June.)

What volunteer programs are available for teens, and will volunteers interact with patients?

The Teen Summer Program provides teenagers, ages 15-17, with an opportunity to contribute in various positions while gaining exposure to a pediatric healthcare setting. Teens will take on volunteer roles including: Inpatient Playrooms, Lemieux Sibling Center, Patient Transport, Outpatient Activity Carts and other various areas assisting hospital staff. Through these roles, teen volunteers may interact with patients under staff supervision.

What type of training is required to become a volunteer and when is it offered?

All hospital volunteers are required to attend one of the New Volunteer Orientation sessions. If accepted into program, you will be notified of the session dates (usually one held in late May, and another in early June).

This orientation will cover general information about Children's Hospital, safety and regulatory requirements, best practices for interactions with hospitalized children, and a brief hospital tour to familiarize new volunteers with the environment. In addition to training, all volunteers must have a TB test prior to starting in their position. We provide TB testing at no cost to volunteers in our employee health office.

Is there a dress code?

There is a dress code for all hospital volunteers, including our teen volunteers. Our teen volunteers receive a complimentary t-shirt that is to be worn during every volunteer shift. All hospital volunteers are required to wear full length casual black or khaki pants and closed-toed, flat shoes that have a back. Tennis shoes or dress shoes are strongly preferred. Socks or stockings must be worn (no bare feet). Sandals, flip-flops, mules, Crocs, high heels, boots and platform shoes are not permitted for safety reasons.