

Your Benefits Of Volunteering

The benefits of volunteering are endless! Meet new people, find new interests, gain free experience, accomplish great things in life, give to others, etc. Whether you are “testing out the waters” in exploring career opportunities, looking for experience while working towards a career in one of the many Human Services Fields that are available OR wanting to give back to the community, I truly feel that WDSRA has what you are looking for. We serve all disability populations and all ages 3+ up to senior citizens. Choose from a variety of programs that may strike your individual interest:

- **Are You In To Sports?** How About Special Olympics or Organized Sports: (Basketball, Volleyball, Softball/Baseball, Swimming, Track & Field, etc.)
- **Are you Into The Arts?** Try a Variety of Our Cultural Arts: (Dance, Art Groups, Drama, Photography, etc.)
- **Do You Like To Travel?** Take a Trip By Helping Out With A Special Event: (Sporting Events, Dinner & A Movie, Game Works, Navy Pier, Festivals, etc.)
- **Just Want To Be Social?** Assist With One Of Over 15 Social Programs: (Cruisers Central, Restaurant Reviewers, Movie Critics, Circle Of Friends, etc.)

The Benefits Of Volunteers To WDSRA

Volunteers are an imperative component to the services that we offer for a number of reasons. Due to the nature of the individuals that we work with it is sometimes necessary to provide a closer staffing ratio according to the specific needs of the group. Volunteers not only serve as an extra set of hands in our programs but they help to offset the cost of additional staff. As a result WDSRA is able to allocate revenue strategically which will allow for the agency to increase the quality of each individual program. Supplying adaptive equipment, sensory toys, a variety of art supplies and other materials needed to make the program a success are just a few examples.

What's Going To Work For *BOTH* of Us????

Many times we have students contact us looking to complete their volunteer hours within a short period of time (2-4 weeks). Unfortunately this does not allow enough time to work together in a number of areas:

- 1) Application Process
- 2) Finding Enough Hours to Complete Requirement
- 3) Preparation & Basic Training
- 4) Ensuring A Positive Experience

WDSRA operates on a seasonal basis with peaks and valleys of programming time. We DO have some programs, special events and camps that run outside of the dates listed below but your options are very limited during those times. In order to allow enough time on both ends AND to utilize volunteers effectively, please adhere to the following guidelines when looking for volunteer opportunities:

- 1) See Seasonal Grid Below
- 2) Complete Application & Submit To The Manager of Support Services
- 3) Follow Up With A Phone Call One Week After Submitting Application
- 4) Discuss Opportunities & Schedule With Manager of Support Services

SEASONS	DATES	BEST IF CONTACTED BY
Summer	June 18 - July 30	Mid May or Anytime Before
Fall	Sept. 24 - Nov. 4	Mid August or Anytime Before
Winter	Jan. 29 - March 17	Mid December or Anytime Before
Spring	April 2 - May 13	Beginning of March or Anytime Before