

Youth Volunteer Guidelines

Valley Outreach welcomes and encourages youth volunteers. Because much of our volunteer work is completed in a warehouse environment, the safety of youth volunteers is paramount. With that safety in mind, please adhere to the following age requirements for youth volunteering. Thank you for choosing to serve our community through Valley Outreach.

AGE GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH VOLUNTEERING

Age	Supervision Needed	Volunteer opportunities available
Age 8+	Parent or guardian	Snack Pack only
Age 14-15	Parent or guardian	Sort clothing, Pack the Racks, Produce Distribution
Age 16+	No parent or guardian needed	Host clients in Food Shelf and Clothing Closet, sort clothing, Pack the Racks

GROUP VOLUNTEERING

- Same age guidelines as listed above apply.
- Groups of youth ages 8-15 may not exceed 10 youth per group.
- Volunteer opportunities may include: cleaning the Food Shelf, sorting food, sorting clothing. Final determination made by Volunteer Manager and Program Staff Manager.

- **YOUTH TO ADULT RATIO**

8-10 years	2 youth to 1 adult
11-15 years	5 youth to 1 adult
16-17 years	10 youth to 1 adult

ORIENTATION/SCHEDULING/TRAINING

All individual youth volunteers (ages 14-17) who want to volunteer more than once (outside of Snack Packs or Pack the Racks) must:

- Attend orientation.
- Have a brief interview with the Volunteer Manager.
- Call the Volunteer Manager to set up a schedule and date to start once you have been approved.
- Parents or guardians are strongly encouraged to attend the orientation with their youth.

EXCEPTIONS

Decisions around exceptions involving age limits and chaperone ratios can be made by the Volunteer Manager. In the absence of said staff, the Valley Outreach staff overseeing the particular volunteer work has the authority to make decisions around exceptions using child safety as the primary objective.

Valley Outreach reserves the right to decline any request for volunteering at any time and to end the service of any volunteer at any time.

Please contact the Volunteer Manager at 651-342-5559 if you have questions.