



City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department Volunteer Service Overview

Why Volunteer?

- To be involved and help others
- To make a difference
- To be a good citizen, resident and improve our city
- To meet new people and make new friends while building your skills and knowledge

Age

The minimum age allowed for a volunteer is sixteen (16) years old.

Background Investigations

Anyone who will be volunteering directly for the Parks and Recreation Department is required to successfully complete a background screen and reference checks.

Volunteer Application

All volunteers must complete a Volunteer Application. Each Tampa Parks and Recreation site may have additional required forms associated with the utilization of volunteers. Volunteers will be made aware of such additional forms during the application process.

Roles and Responsibilities

Volunteers are valuable assets providing needed resources to the Parks and Recreation Department. The Tampa Parks and Recreation volunteer is an individual who willingly and freely offers services with no expectation of payment or other compensation. Volunteers may include but are not limited to individuals and groups engaging in service opportunities defined by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Volunteers must comply with the guidelines and procedures outlined in the Tampa Parks and Recreation Volunteer Handbook. They must also follow all ordinances, policies, and procedures, and abide by the same rules of conduct, ethical standards and confidentiality requirements that govern City of Tampa employees.

Volunteers are NOT

- City employees
- Those ordered by the court to work in the community. Department policy states that those ordered by the court to do work in the community will not be allowed to work in our facilities or on our property.
- Volunteers for affiliated youth sports leagues are supervised and administered by the parent organization of that league by the standards outlined in the agreement between the league and the City of Tampa.

Types of Volunteer Service

- Regular Volunteer: Service activities on an on-going basis or for a set period of time.
- Community/Service-Learning: Service activities that may be required or assigned by educational, religious or civic organizations.
- Special Event Volunteering: One time, episodic, or done-in-a-day projects.

Individual volunteers are currently utilized in, but not limited to, the following functions:

- Step coach
- Soccer coach
- Aerobics instructor
- Basketball coach
- Softball coach
- Parent volunteers for special events

Groups of volunteers are currently utilized in, but not limited to, the following functions:

- Park clean-up
- River clean-up
- Shelter refurbishment
- Eagle Scout projects

Outside partner non-profit organizations that provide and oversee volunteers to support the department include:

- Friends of Tampa Recreation, Inc. (FOTR): provides volunteer opportunities throughout the year for many special events.
- Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful (KTBB): coordinates all Eagle Scout projects, as well as, groups who wish to work in our parks doing litter pick-up, shoreline restoration, etc. In addition, they hosts the annual Hillsborough River/Coastal Clean-up.
- Children's Athletic Network & Dance Opportunities, Inc. (CAN-DO): has a variety of volunteer opportunities from events to meets throughout the year.

Expectations

- Dependable – attendance, punctuality, completion of all required paperwork
- Cooperative in spirit
- Courteous and polite to staff and public
- Respectful of others
- Abide by guidelines and policies

Non-discrimination policy

For all activities related to the recruitment and retention of volunteers, the Tampa Parks and Recreation Department does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or sexual orientation, national origin, disability, marital status, or political beliefs. Individuals requesting accommodation or accessibility information should contact the Volunteer Coordinator.