

Feed The Kids Columbus Volunteer Policy

Introduction

Feed The Kids Columbus is a **mostly volunteer-driven** nonprofit dedicated to alleviating childhood hunger in Central Ohio. Volunteers play a crucial role in supporting our programs, and we are incredibly grateful for the time, effort, and passion they bring to our mission.

We are committed to maintaining a **safe and inclusive** environment for both the children we serve and our volunteers. As an **equal opportunity organization**, we welcome volunteers of all backgrounds and do not discriminate based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or any other protected status.

To ensure a positive and effective volunteer experience, we have established the following guidelines regarding volunteer participation, safety, and service hour verification.

Volunteer Opportunities

1. At-Home Volunteering

We offer **flexible at-home volunteer opportunities** where individuals can complete projects on their own time and drop off the completed items at a designated date and location. These opportunities are ideal for students and community members fulfilling service hours.

Service Hour Guidelines for At-Home Volunteers

To maintain fairness and consistency, we have set a maximum number of service hours that can be earned through at-home volunteer activities:

- **Snack Bags:** 30 snack bags = *maximum* 2 service hours
- **Kindness Cards:** 30 kindness cards = *maximum* 2 service hours
- **Monthly Limit:** Each volunteer may earn a *maximum* of **8 service hours per month** through at-home activities.

Important: Volunteers must **properly report their donation drop-off** in order to receive service hours. If a drop-off is not recorded, we cannot verify the donation and will be unable to sign off on hours.

2. In-Person Volunteering

Feed The Kids Columbus regularly hosts **in-person volunteer events**, including snack packing, extended school break bag packing, and general warehouse maintenance & support events. Unlike at-home volunteering, there is **no maximum limit** on in-person volunteer hours.

- Example: If a volunteer attends 6 in-person events for 2 hours each, they will receive 12 verified service hours.

In-person volunteering provides a great way to be directly involved in our mission while also earning service hours.

Age Requirements for In-Person Volunteering

- We welcome volunteers **ages 5 and up** for in-person events; however, we recognize that some young children may not yet be ready for these activities. Many of our events require standing in an assembly line for up to two hours, which can be challenging for some children.
 - **Parents/guardians should use their best judgment** in determining if their child is ready to volunteer.
 - **All children under the age of 12 must be supervised by an accompanying adult at all times.**
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3. Court-Appointed Volunteer Hours

We review **court-appointed volunteer hour requests on a case-by-case basis** to ensure alignment with our organization's safety policies. Approval is not guaranteed, and we reserve the right to determine eligibility for these opportunities.

General Volunteer Guidelines

1. **Safety First:**
 - The safety of both volunteers and the children we serve is our top priority. We reserve the right to adjust volunteer policies and practices as needed to ensure a secure environment.
2. **Respect & Inclusivity:**
 - All volunteers are expected to treat others with kindness, professionalism, and respect. Discriminatory or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.
3. **Commitment & Reliability:**
 - If signing up for an in-person event, please arrive on time and notify us if you are unable to attend.

4. **Verification of Hours:**

- Service hours will only be verified once the volunteer has properly reported their at-home donation drop-off or has attended an in-person event.

5. **Right to Evaluate & Modify Policies:**

- Feed The Kids Columbus reserves the right to update or modify this volunteer policy at any time to best serve the needs of the organization and its mission.
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Questions & Contact Information

For any questions regarding volunteering, service hour verification, or upcoming opportunities, please contact:

 **Email:** info@feedthekidscolumbus.com

 **Website:** www.feedthekidscolumbus.com

Thank you for your time, dedication, and support of **Feed The Kids Columbus!** Together, we are making a meaningful impact in the lives of children in Central Ohio.