



High School Volunteer Leadership Program @

The Children's Museum of the Upstate

FAQs

Q: What is the High School Volunteer Leadership Program?

A: The High School Volunteer Leadership Program allows students in grades 9-12 to grow in leadership and teamwork while serving the community.

Q: How do I join the High School Volunteer Leadership Program?

A: There is an application process for the summer and school year sessions. The application is located on our website and a reference link will be given to the candidate to send to two teachers who have taught them in the last year. Guidance counselors may also fill out the form. Candidates who complete the first two steps by the given deadlines may proceed to the interview portion of the application process. Candidates will be notified concerning the final status of their applications via email and/or mail.

Q: When are applications due for each session?

A: Typically, applications will be available according to the following:

Summer Applications:

February/March -- Summer Interviews: April

School Year Referrals and Applications:

August/September -- School Year Interviews: September

Q: If I volunteered during the summer session, do I need to reapply for the school year?

A: No, you do not. Volunteers will receive a commitment form via email to transition into the school year session. When applications for the summer session open, current volunteers must reapply.

Q: What kind of commitment is required?

A: High school students applying for either session are required to fulfill a 70-hour commitment.

For the summer session, volunteers must be able to volunteer for 3 weeks of camp plus extra weekend opportunities to complete the required hours. Volunteers must also be able to attend at least 1 of 2 leadership nights

For the school year session, volunteers will plan an event held in April at TCMU. Leadership Nights are pivotal to the planning and execution of the event, and volunteers must be able to attend the 5 leadership nights (see below). In addition to the spring event, volunteers will complete their 70-hour commitment by helping in, at minimum, 5 half-days of holiday camps and through ongoing volunteer opportunities.

Fall & Spring Leadership Nights:

Oct 10: Kick-Off 5-6:30pm | Nov 14: 5-6:30pm

Feb 13: 5-6:30pm | Mar 13: 5-6:30pm | Apr 10: 5-6:30pm

Meetings generally take place every second Tuesday of the month.

Q: What if transportation to the museum is a challenge?

A: You will need reliable transportation to participate in the program.

Q: How do you provide leadership development?

A: Students lead at least one camp lesson per week of summer camp.

In the school year, students will organize and direct the content of the spring event. Students form the Teen Council, who in turn will take the lead in our meetings (the Teen Council is for 10th-12th graders with at least 70 hours experience, more commitments do apply).

Q: Will time at the museum count towards my community service requirements?

A: In our experience, most schools will accept volunteer service at The Children's Museum of the Upstate as part of the community service requirements. However, we strongly encourage students to check with their supervising teacher as some schools have different requirements. It is each student's responsibility to keep track of their volunteer times and to ask the staff member supervising them to sign off on hours at the completion of each shift. Asking the coordinator to complete the form or waiting until it is due to get signatures is strongly discouraged as the coordinator's schedule varies and a prompt response cannot be guaranteed.

Q: What benefits will I receive from the High School Volunteer Leadership Program?

A: The benefits will largely depend on how invested you are in the program. All students will receive the intrinsic rewards of volunteering their time and knowledge to help others. Students will have the opportunity to develop their leadership and teamwork skills, meet new friends and identify their talents.

More Questions? Contact Christine Pineros @ 864-553-7911 or cpineros@tcmupstate.org