

FCPA Q & A for Volunteers

How should I prepare for volunteering in this COVID-19 environment?

All volunteers should strictly adhere to the CDC's guidelines for hygiene and disease prevention. This includes staying home if you are feeling sick or having signs of a cold or cough. If a family member is experiencing signs of the flu, cough, or cold, please do not volunteer.

Do I need to wear protective gloves?

Volunteers may choose to wear gloves, but it is not required. With regard to protective measures, CDC recommendations for gloves include wearing gloves when you are cleaning or caring for someone who is sick but in most other situations, like running errands, wearing gloves is not necessary. In accordance with these guidelines, protective gloves are not deemed necessary for general tasks but as in the past, are recommended when touching trash or trash bags. For trash and debris cleanup, disposable gloves can be provided upon arrangement with your site contact, or you may choose to bring your own gloves.

Are masks required?

Per Governor Northam's Executive Order Sixty-Three, Virginians are required to wear face coverings in public indoor settings. Face coverings are recommended outdoors as well, when social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. In accordance with these guidelines, all staff and volunteers are required to wear face coverings while in Park Authority indoor facilities. Please bring your own face covering, such as a cloth mask or bandana, for use when within six feet of others (or within ten feet of people who are exercising.) If you do not have access to a face covering, one can be provided by FCPA staff. All face coverings should either be a disposable mask or a reusable cloth face covering that has been properly sanitized.

Do I need to sign in?

Coordination of volunteer efforts will be by e-mail, text and phone between you and the volunteer contact at your site. Your hours will be recorded by your site contact - no need to sign in.

May volunteer groups resume activities at this time?

Yes. We are now allowing groups to resume volunteer activities. Please work with your site volunteer coordinator. Groups must be limited in size and must be able to meet social distancing guidelines.

Q & A for Indoor Volunteers

Will the workstation or equipment I use during my shift be sanitized prior to my shift?

Yes, staff will ensure that any equipment or workstation used by a volunteer will be sanitized prior to and after the volunteer shift.

Q & A for Outdoor Volunteers

Can students and scouts resume volunteer activities?

Yes. Please work with your site volunteer coordinator to ensure everyone's safety during this time. Group activities will be limited. Youth must be accompanied by an adult as indicated by the volunteer opportunity.

Can I access the nearby FCPA facility when I am volunteering?

If the facility is open, yes. If the facility is closed to the public, volunteers will not have access. Shifts are limited to two to three hours to avoid the need to access facilities for bathrooms, water, or snacks. Please bring your own water and/or snacks.

Do I need to bring my own tools?

We encourage you to bring your own tools such as trash grabbers, clippers, etc. to alleviate the need to share tools. If tools need to be shared, they should be disinfected between users. County provided tools are also available and will be made available prior to your shift through coordination with your site contact.

Can I leave trash at the volunteering site?

Yes. Filled trash bags should be placed next to existing trash cans (or as directed by staff) and securely tied closed to prevent spillage. Large items requiring more than one handler should be noted as to location/size and reported to staff for retrieval later.