

Volunteer FAQ's

I am thinking about volunteering. What should I consider?

First, assess whether you have time available each week to commit to volunteering. Think about your interests, skills and career plans - this will help us determine where you might volunteer.

When do you need volunteers?

We have volunteer placements six days a week starting as early as 9:00 am and going until 4:00 pm, 8:30pm a couple of days a week. Because more programs happen during the day, we have a greater need for daytime, weekday volunteers.

What do you look for in your volunteers?

We look for individuals who want to help others, are positive, are dedicated, caring, and sensitive to the needs of others and will commit to their role. Volunteers should be motivated, energetic and customer-service oriented.

Is there a time commitment?

We want to meet your needs by accommodating your busy schedule, but we require a minimum commitment of one shift per week or 40 hours over a four-month period. Shifts are 1-3 hours depending on the placement.

Do I need any special immunizations to volunteer at GWCL?

We do not require immunizations, but encourage all volunteers to be vaccinated for the seasonal flu because our clients are highly susceptible to upper-respiratory diseases.

What level of language and literacy do I need to successfully volunteer at GWCL?

Because many of our placements require interactions with others, we ask our volunteers be able to follow directions, give directions and to express themselves clearly and concisely in the English language. We have found a benchmark of Level 8 or higher works well for our volunteer placements in reading; writing; listening and speaking.

Do I need a Criminal Records check and a Child Abuse Registry check?

All volunteers over the age of 18 must pass a Criminal Record Check and a Vulnerable Sector Verification.

Once you have your Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Verification, we will book you for your orientation. You must have passed the check before you are placed in your volunteer role.

What type of references do I need for my application form?

You require references from people who have known you for at least three months and are from different aspects of your life (teachers, co-workers, group leaders, supervisors or colleagues). Always ask permission to use someone as a reference and provide a current, daytime phone number. References from family members are not accepted.

Will volunteering help me get a job at Golden West Centennial Lodge?

Volunteering at any organization will help you gain skills for future employment. Volunteering at GWCL is unrelated to GWCL job opportunities, but many of our volunteers have gained valuable experience to help with applying for various roles within our organization.

How does Golden West Centennial Lodge decide where to place volunteers?

We consider many factors when matching volunteers to placements. We look at availability, interest and skills and then determine how they match our opportunities.

How old do I have to be to volunteer at Golden West Centennial Lodge?

Volunteers must be at least 14 years old and/or going into Grade 9.

I'm on a student visa. Can I volunteer?

Yes.

Where do I park when I volunteer at Golden West Centennial Lodge?

Complimentary parking privileges are available in Visitors Parking in front of the main building.

Does GWCL have opportunities for students during the summer months?

Yes. We encourage students to apply in early June as spaces fill up quickly. We provide lunch to students who volunteer for a full day with us.