

Golden Gate National Parks Families and Youth Policy Guidelines



Families and Youth: Guidelines for Volunteering in the Golden Gate National Parks

For most of our volunteer programs, all ages are welcome, and families are encouraged. Our park volunteer programs are designed to provide a rewarding and safe volunteer experience, but when working with families and young volunteers we need active adult guardian/chaperone participation to be successful.

To clarify expectations and make this the best experience for everyone involved – positive, productive, and meaningful – we have outlined some guidelines below.

Guidelines:

- National Park volunteer programs are not drop-off programs:
 - Adult Guardian/Chaperone(s) required for volunteers under the age of 15 (1:7 adult:youth ratio).
 - Children under the age of 7 must have a dedicated adult guardian/chaperone that can help them participate.
 - Young children who cannot participate in the work are welcome to attend, but we ask that they do not become a distraction to other volunteers.
- Before registering for a volunteer program, review our general [Work Description and Field Safety \(PDF\)](#).
 - All necessary tools, supplies, gloves, and training will be provided.
- All volunteers need a completed and signed **Agreement for Individual or Group Donated Services**. Each participant must bring a completed/signed form.
 - **For participants under 18:** each form needs to be completed and signed by a parent/guardian. Once you have registered for a volunteer program, we will email you the required forms. Please complete a registration for each participant in your party.
- Adult Guardians/Chaperones are expected to act as positive role models and to help their young volunteers participate in a safe and constructive way:
 - Participate fully in the volunteer program
 - Demonstrate safe tool use
 - Politely work with others
 - Respect the sensitive habitat
 - Provide motivation and encouragement

What to Wear & Bring:

- All necessary tools, gloves, and training will be provided.
- Wear clothes that can get dirty - long pants, closed-toe shoes (no flip-flops or sandals), layers for changing weather, and rain gear, if necessary.
- Bring sun protection, such as a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen.
- Bring a reusable water bottle and personal snacks.