

# Golden Gate National Parks Families and Youth Policy Guidelines



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

With a number 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.

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

### Guidelines:

1. The 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.
2. 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

### Volunteer Agreement Form:

All volunteers need to complete the volunteer agreement form. Volunteers under the age of 18 must have the parent/guardian approval section signed.

- [Volunteer Agreement Form \(PDF\)](#)
- [Work Description and Field Safety \(PDF\)](#)

### Be Prepared! Dress Appropriately!

#### What to Bring:

- Bring your completed volunteer agreement form.
- Bring a reusable water bottle. We'll have water stations for refills.
- If you have a pair of favorite gloves, feel free to bring those.
- All necessary tools, supplies, gloves, and training will be provided.

#### What to Wear:

- Wear clothes that can get dirty. Long pants and closed-toe shoes are required.
- Bring layers for changing weather and rain gear if necessary.
- Bring a hat.
- Wear sunscreen.