



DEERFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM HANDBOOK

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

Ghandi

TABLE OF CONTENTS

District Non-Discrimination Statements.....	2
Thank you & Introduction	3
Code of Ethics for Volunteers	4
Routine Procedures	5
General Information	6
Helpful Tips and Phone Numbers.....	7
Day Trip Chaperone Responsibilities.....	8
Overnight Trip Chaperone Responsibilities	8
Volunteer Application	9-10

Student Non-Discrimination Statement

It is the policy of the Deerfield Community School district that no person may be denied admission to any public school in this district or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil service, recreational, or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap as required by s.118.13, Wis. Stats. This policy also prohibits discrimination as defined by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, and national origin), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. *The district will provide reasonable accommodation of a student's sincerely held religious beliefs with regard to examinations and other academic requirements per PI4 41.04(1)(a). For more information or to file a complaint, contact Ms. Karen Frey, freyk@deerfield.k12.wi.us, 608-764-5431, Deerfield Community Schools, 300 Simonson Boulevard, Deerfield, WI 53531.

Title IX Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Board of the Deerfield Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment.

Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the District's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"), or both.

The District's Title IX Coordinator is:

Karen Frey
Director of Pupil Services
300 Simonson Blvd.
Deerfield, WI 53531
freyk@deerfield.k12.wi.us
608-764-5431

The Board's non-discrimination policy (#2264 – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities) and grievance procedures can be located on the district website [here](#).

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to Policy 2264 – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, which can be found on the district website [here](#).

Contact information for Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is available [here](#).

Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504"), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended ("ADA"), and the implementing regulations (collectively "Section 504/ADA"), no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance solely by reason of disability. The Board does not discriminate in admission or access to, participation in, treatment in its programs or activities. As such, the Board's policies and practices will not discriminate against students with disabilities and the Board will make its facilities, programs, and activities accessible to qualified individuals with disabilities. No discrimination will be knowingly permitted against any individual with a disability on the sole basis of that disability in any of the programs, activities, policies, and/or practices in the District.

Dear Volunteer,

Thank you for your interest in serving as a volunteer with the Deerfield Community School District. While the formal education of our children is the primary responsibility of the Board of Education, teachers, staff and administration, we believe that it “takes a village to raise a child” and welcome the support and skills of parents and community volunteers to help make our schools great places to learn and grow for all students.

In this handbook you will find important information about our volunteer program along with volunteer guidelines and the volunteer application. To help ensure the safety of every student in our district, a criminal background check will be completed. When the background check is completed and satisfactory, your name will be added to the approved district volunteer database.

Important Information in Volunteer Handbook:

1. Code of Ethics for Volunteers (must be read prior to volunteering)
2. Routine Procedures and General Information
3. Day Trip Chaperone Responsibilities (must be read prior to attending field trips)
4. Overnight Trip Chaperone Responsibilities (must be read prior to attending overnight trips)
5. Volunteer Application:
 - There is a section on the application form to disclose details if you have had a conviction. If you feel uncomfortable disclosing information on the form, please contact Angie Haag, District Administrator Asst., at 764-5431. All information disclosed is strictly confidential and a determination will be made on an individual basis. Failure to disclose any convictions we find during the background check may result in denial of your volunteer status.

Please take time to read through the handbook information prior to filling out the application. The completed form should be returned to your child’s classroom teacher or the school office. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the District Office at 764-5431.

Thank you once again for your interest in working with our students and staff. Your gift of time is sincerely appreciated. Working together, we create a culture of excellence and equity in educating all of our children.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Maintain Confidentiality

In your role as volunteer, you may read and hear information about students that is *confidential*. It may be the result of classroom or achievement tests, attendance data, financial or personal family information, social or behavioral actions, or other interactions. There may be times that a staff person needs to share confidential information with you or a student may tell you something in confidence. You may hear conversations between students and teachers, students and students, or between district personnel. All these things are confidential and should never be discussed with others who do not have a legitimate need to know. If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, this should be reported immediately to the building principal. Parents, friends or community members may, in good faith, ask you questions about the progress or problems of a student knowing that you are a volunteer. Discussion of individual students, teachers, or staff, or their actions and/or their abilities, is considered a breach of professional conduct and the student's right to privacy, and may be grounds for your dismissal from our volunteer program. The student's teacher is the most appropriate person with whom to discuss a child's progress and problems. You should direct any questions about a child to the child's teacher.

Both students and staff have the right to expect that nothing that happens to or about them will be repeated outside the school to anyone, including the student's parents. Only staff that is responsible for the design, preparation and delivery of education and related services may have access to written or oral information about students and their families.

It is our expectation that volunteers will never share confidential information about a student or staff member with others, including the volunteer's, student's or staff member's family.

Be Reliable

Remember that students and staff members depend on, and appreciate, your presence. If you find you will be running late, please contact the school.

Be a Good Role Model

All faculty, staff, administrators, board members, and school volunteers serve complementary roles in promoting positive character development. In schools, as in families, children care about our values because they know we care about them.

- Volunteers serve as **caregivers** – respecting students, helping them succeed at the work of school, treating each student as having worth and dignity, and enabling students to gain a first-hand appreciation of the meaning of ethics by being treated in an ethical way.
- Volunteers serve as **role models** – ethical persons who demonstrate a high level of respect and responsibility both inside and outside the classroom.
- Volunteers serve as **mentors** – providing guidance through explanation, storytelling, encouragement of positive behavior, and corrective feedback – especially one-on-one correction.

Practice Open and Positive Communication

Address any concerns or issues promptly and productively. You may contact the classroom teacher or the building principal to express your concerns. Communication is the key to establishing good relationships that benefit everyone.

ROUTINE PROCEDURES

1. Sign in at the main office upon your arrival and departure.
2. Wear your volunteer name tag so that staff members and students know who you are and can show appreciation for your presence.
3. If you must be absent, call the school and ask that the staff member with whom you work be informed so that the student(s) will not be disappointed.
4. Please be prompt! We plan our days with your help in mind.
5. Don't hesitate to ask questions or to set up a meeting to get further instructions, if needed.
 - If you have questions about your volunteer assignment in general, talk with the principal.
 - If you have questions about student instructional, curricular or behavior concerns, talk with the teacher.
 - If you have questions about school climate issues, harassment or discrimination concerns or conduct of students or staff that upsets you, talk with the principal.

NOTE: If school is canceled or students are released early because of snow or another unanticipated situation, announcements will be aired on the following TV stations:

Television:

WMTV – Channel 15

WKOW – Channel 27

WISC – Channel 3

GENERAL INFORMATION

Here is additional information you will need:

ACCIDENTS – STUDENTS

Please report all accidents and apparent illnesses to the classroom teacher or to the school office immediately. The school nurse will be notified immediately of all student accidents.

ACCIDENTS – VOLUNTEERS

Please report any accident or injury you might sustain while volunteering to the school principal as soon as possible (see liability coverage). We all appreciate you staying home and taking care of yourself if you are not feeling well.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Volunteers are required to participate in emergency drills. If you are unsure of your role or have other questions, please see the building principal.

HOT LUNCH

Volunteers may purchase school hot lunch at the adult price when they are working at the school. Check with the school office for menu and price information.

LIABILITY COVERAGE

School volunteers are covered by the Deerfield Community School District's liability insurance policy for personal injury. Questions may be directed to the Business Manager at 764-5431.

HARASSMENT/DISCRIMINATION

The Deerfield Community School District is committed to providing a safe, harassment- and discrimination-free environment for its students, employees and volunteers. Any volunteer who feels that he/she has been a witness to or the subject of, discrimination and/or sexual harassment should report the incident to the building principal immediately and without fear of reprisal. You may also speak to the District Administrator at 764-5431.

STAFF LOUNGES

For confidentiality reasons, lounges are reserved for staff members only. Please check with your classroom teacher or principal regarding a location in which you may relax while at the school.

STUDENT RELEASE/DISCIPLINE

Please remember that you do not have the authority to release a student from school; this must be done through the office, with the permission of the principal. Volunteers who work with students are expected to maintain firm but kind control of these lively young people and to refer any serious problems or concerns to a staff person. Volunteers may not provide transportation in their personal vehicles for any school-sponsored activities.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Volunteers are prohibited from consuming, possessing, furnishing, selling or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs in school or at any school-sponsored, organized or associated function or on/in any property, facility or vehicle owned or operated by or for the school.

TIPS FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN

- Enjoy yourself – and they will too!
- Be warm and friendly.
- Learn the child's name and be sure the child knows your name.
- Be a good listener and show that you are paying attention to the child by talking about things in which he/she is interested.
- Use positive comments to encourage the child.
- Let the child know that making a mistake is part of learning.
- If you don't know an answer, admit it, and work the problem out together or ask the teacher.
- Build the child's confidence by praising their attention, achievement and effort. Be as specific as possible in your praise.
- Be reliable so the child will not be disappointed.
- Don't make promises that you cannot keep.
- Maintain a sense of humor.
- Encourage the child to do their own thinking and give him/her time to respond.
- Communicate often with the teacher.

PHONE NUMBERS

Deerfield Elementary School – 608-764-5442
Deerfield Middle/High School – 608-764-5431
District Office – 608-764-5431

CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SCHOOL RELATED TRIPS

DAY TRIPS

A chaperone will:

- Leave other children at home. The students assigned to your group will need your full attention during the entire field trip.
- Ride to and from the area of destination with the students in the same means of transportation provided for the students, unless prior approval has been given by the building principal.
- Carry a list which includes home phone numbers and special needs of all students they are responsible to supervise. This includes responsibility for prescription medications.
- Watch carefully for student valuables and check the buses thoroughly (whenever students disembark) so as to avoid leaving behind students' personal belongings.
- Abstain from the use of alcohol and illegal drugs during the entire trip.
- Abstain from the use of tobacco or other smoking devices in the presence of students.
- Refrain from transferring their role to another person during the time they are responsible for the supervision of students.

Violation of any of the above stipulations may result in the termination of chaperone services.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

A chaperone shall follow the procedures listed above and will:

- Adhere to established "lights out" quiet time to provide students with appropriate sleep time.
- Periodically check rooms/tents to assure that student behavior is within established guidelines.
- Not have inappropriate verbal or physical interactions with students or with each other.
- Sleep in assigned room/tent so that students and other chaperones can contact them in case of an emergency or change in trip itinerary.

Violation of any of the above stipulations may result in the termination of chaperone services.

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION (page 1 of 2)

(ONE FORM PER PERSON REGARDLESS OF NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FAMILY)

Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City Zip

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

Relationship to school:

- ☐ Parent of student(s) Student name(s) _____
- ☐ Relative of student(s) Student name(s) _____
- ☐ Community member

The District shall conduct a state criminal records check every three (3) years on all volunteers who have contact with students or who have supervisory responsibility for children at a school site or on school-sponsored trips. Such information shall be considered in determining volunteer status.

☐ The District has conducted a criminal records check for me within the past three years

DOB and SSN are required to conduct the background check. This information will be filed in the district office and will be held in strict confidence.

Date of Birth: _____/_____/_____ *SSN: _____ - _____ - _____

**Have you ever been convicted or pleaded no contest to any violation of law, other than a minor traffic violation? _____YES _____NO If yes, list date(s), location(s) and charge(s). (include pending charges)

****If your status changes during the three (3) year period it is your responsibility to notify the school. Failure to do so may result in a change in your volunteer status.**

I have reviewed the Code of Ethics for Volunteers, Routine Procedures, and Chaperone Responsibilities for School Related Trips. I agree to abide by the guidelines set forth in these documents and understand that a background check will be conducted on me to ensure the safety of our students.

Signature

Date

Please contact the district office
at 764-5431 if you have questions.


COMPLETE BOTH SIDES

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION (page 2 of 2)

(ONE FORM PER PERSON REGARDLESS OF NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FAMILY)

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

For which volunteer roles would you like to be considered? (Check all that apply)

☐ Classroom helper – Teacher(s): _____

☐ Day field trip chaperone – Teacher(s): _____

☐ Tutor – please specify subject(s): _____

☐ Overnight field trip chaperone – Destination: _____

☐ Coach – please specify sport: _____

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Emergency Contact: _____ Relationship _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

Physician: _____ Phone Number: _____

Hospital: _____ Allergies: _____

***Thank you for taking the time to complete the volunteer application.
The district appreciates your commitment to helping make our schools
great places to learn and grow for all students.***

PLEASE RETURN APPLICATION TO YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM TEACHER OR SCHOOL OFFICE

OFFICE USE ONLY

(PLEASE INITIAL)

_____ DATE OF BACKGROUND CHECK

_____ PRINCIPAL _____ SUPT.

_____ APPROVED _____ DENIED