

Student Volunteer Program Parent/Guardian FAQs

Q: What is the goal of the Student Volunteer Program?

A: Most obvious, we hope that this program can inspire and educate our future generation of healthcare workers. We find many students believe that the only healthcare careers are RNs or MDs – we strive to show them all possibilities in healthcare. Additionally, we hope to encourage students to value responsibility and independence, as well as spark a desire to help their community.

Q: How many students are in the program?

A: We average between 75-80 students every summer! We accept on average 50 new students a year, with the rest of the spots being filled by returning students. Unfortunately, due to the high volume of applicants and popularity of the program, not all students will be accepted. **All applicants are given an equal opportunity to join our program – connections to Northern Light will not give students an advantage over others.**

Q: What does the commitment for to the program entail?

A: Our program runs for 8 weeks. We expect students to volunteer at least one 8-hour day (8am – 4pm) every week for **at least 6** of them – this allows for them to take family vacations or sick days if needed. The day they volunteer will remain the same for the duration of the program. Incompletion of 48 hours of service results in incompletion of the program and ineligibility to return.

While we do want students to enjoy their summer in addition to their volunteering, we cannot permit more than two excused absences. We rely on them to honor their commitment to our program to continue its success year after year, and the teams they are volunteering with are relying on them as well. If your student is unable to meet their commitment during the program, we reserve the right to dismiss them from service as we see fit.

Q: What are the expectations for the student application?

A: Students are required to complete the paper application as well as 2 non-family member letters of recommendation. One letter must be from a teacher. **All documents are due by March 31st**, there is **no** exception to this deadline. Documents can be submitted via drop off, mail, or email. Students will receive communication if they are missing letters of recommendation from the Volunteer Coordinator, however it is the student's responsibility to follow up with those they have selected to submit letters on their behalf. Applications will then be reviewed for interviews, which occur during April vacation.

Q: What are the communication expectations for my student?

A: First and foremost, we expect to communicate with students directly throughout the entirety of the process and program. This experience is meant to resemble that of applying & receiving a job. While we welcome contact from parents with occasional questions or concerns, we otherwise will communicate with the student directly.

Email is our primary means of communication, but students accepted to the program will also be expected to enroll their cell phone to receive notifications and/or text messages from Remind, a program used by many schools to quickly communicate reminders with students.

Q: Should my student list their email address or mine on the application?

A: As stated, we expect to communicate directly with the students throughout the entirety of the process and program, so the primary email address should be theirs. However, we welcome parents to include their email addresses for secondary communications to keep you up to date!

Q: What is the uniform for students?

A: We purchase Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center polos that are embroidered with “Student Volunteer” on it – we want them to look like part of our team! Due to the cost, students are not able to keep these. If they are not returned or are ruined, students may be charged \$20 to replace them.

Q: What does the interview look like?

A: Our interview is truly just to get to know students and make sure we have a chance to explain the program fully to them. We discuss expectations, ask some questions to learn more about them and what they hope to get from the experience, and let them know next steps – and of course, answer any questions they may have! This is meant to be treated as a professional interview, so **we ask that students are dressed in business casual attire and arrive on time**. Parents are welcome to wait for students outside of the interview room if they would like.

Q: If they are accepted to the program, what happens next?

A: Accepted students will be expected to attend student orientation as well as a Health Screening here at the Medical Center to ensure they have received all necessary vaccinations and have their badge photo taken. Failure to complete either of these will prevent them from volunteering.

Q: Are there other important dates or events we should know about?

A: Throughout the summer, we host a number of student events, including our Career Exploration Day. This allows for students to get to talk with professionals from multiple departments, tours of ORs and LifeFlight, and much more. We encourage all students to attend! Additionally, on the final Friday of our program, we host a celebration that all students & families are invited to.