



Children and Youth Volunteer Policy

Brighter Days has specific guidelines and requirements for Minor Volunteers, ages 17 and below. **Youth volunteers are required to always have an approved adult volunteer chaperone with them when volunteering.** Occasional exceptions may be made on a case-by-cases basis, after a youth has demonstrated maturity and responsibility while volunteering with us.

Youth volunteers are expected to demonstrate a positive attitude, mature behavior, and diligent work ethic at all times.

Please review our **Child and Youth Volunteer Guidelines** below. Both the youth and parents will be required to sign acceptance and commitment to the adherence of these guidelines and conduct expectations prior to volunteering.

CHILDREN VOLUNTEERS, ages 8-11, are only allowed to volunteer with Brighter Days in a **limited capacity with their Parent/Guardian. Approval is granted on a case-by-case basis by Brighter Days staff.** Each request will be approved or denied on a case-by-case basis. If approval is granted, all Youth Policies outlined below must be adhered to by the child and the parent/guardian volunteer. Children under the age of 7 are not allowed to volunteer at Brighter Days' special events, but they are welcome to help parents with a take-home volunteer project and/or with collecting donations.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS, ages 12-17, are allowed to volunteer only if accompanied by an approved Adult Chaperone (preferably parent/guardian) who has completed a Brighter Days volunteer application. We require a minimum ratio of two youth per Adult Chaperone. **We do NOT ALLOW UNACCOMPANIED MINORS to volunteer by themselves.** They must have a chaperone. We may make exceptions on a case-by-case basis after the youth has demonstrated responsibility and interviewed with Brighter Days' staff and been approved in advance.

1. All Youth Volunteers must complete a Brighter Days Volunteer Application.
2. All Adult Chaperones must also complete a Brighter Days Volunteer Application and pass a criminal background check prior to volunteering.
3. All Youth Volunteers must have their parents' permission to volunteer which is included under 'Minor Statement and Release' in the Volunteer Application.
4. Youth Volunteers and Adult Chaperones may not take pictures and/or record video while at the events, and are prohibited from obtaining telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, or addresses from program clients.
5. Youth Volunteers and Adult Chaperones may not bring friends, family members or any unauthorized people to their volunteer placement.
6. All Youth and Adult chaperones must stay at assigned station(s) unless approved to move by the Volunteer Coordinator.
7. **All Adult Chaperone Volunteers must supervise their Youth and/or Child Volunteers at all times and are responsible for the Youth/Child's actions and behavior.** The Adult Chaperone is expected to stay with the youth they are accompanying throughout the duration of the volunteer placement.
8. All volunteers, including youth, children, parents, guardians, and chaperones, must abide by the rules, guidelines and procedures of the organization and Brighter Days' staff, as stated in the Brighter Days Volunteer Handbook including proper dress code, demonstrating a positive attitude, mature behavior, high integrity and diligent work ethic. Brighter Days reserves the right to dismiss any volunteer who does not follow the guidelines.

All youth volunteers, ages 16 and higher, that wish to volunteer independently without a chaperone must be interviewed PRIOR to the volunteer event by a Brighter Days Director and/or Volunteer Coordinator. The Youth Volunteer and will not be permitted to volunteer without a chaperone, until after the interview process has been completed and approved. The youth volunteer screening is intended to determine if the applicant is eligible to serve alone as a volunteer. Due to the age similarity of the youth volunteer and children and youth served by Brighter Days, it is essential that the volunteer role, outlined above, is clearly defined and understood completely by the youth volunteer and their chaperone. Click here to submit Rainbow Days' [Volunteer Application](#). For Questions about Volunteering with Brighter Days, please contact Sunni Roaten, Rainbow Days' Senior Director of Volunteers and Operations, at SunniR@BrighterDaysTX.org or 214-217-3833.