

10 Hudson Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Tel: 410.349.5056 www.AnnapolisLightHouse.org

## **FAQS FOR STUDENT VOLUNTEERS**

What is Student Volunteer Service? Student Volunteer Service is non-compensated work that is done with the purpose to help and benefit the community or area where the students live. At The Light House, we strive to provide students with volunteer opportunities that are both enriching and educational.

Why is Student Volunteer Service important? Student Volunteer Service is incredibly important to our community! Students have the opportunity to learn about ways they can support the community in which they live. At The Light House, student volunteers help to provide important support and assistance through a variety of off-site opportunities.

**How do I become a Student Volunteer?** Off-site Student Volunteer opportunities do not require the full Volunteer Certification Process to be completed by a parent or guardian and there is no minimum age requirement to participate. Parent or guardian permission to participate in off-site opportunities should be obtained and please refer to the website for off-site opportunities that require a sign-up.

On-site Student Volunteer: The minimum age for on-site student volunteers is 11, and all those under 18 are required to be accompanied by a parent or guardian who has completed the Volunteer Certification Process in order to volunteer on-site. The process for the parent/guardian includes completing a volunteer application, submitting a background check and watching our volunteer orientation video which students are encouraged to watch as well.

**How do Student Volunteers assist at The Light House?** At this time, most student volunteer opportunities are off-site opportunities and include providing UNBagged Lunches, In-Kind donation Drives, various Kits collections, along with a variety of other opportunities. Check out the "10 Ways for Students for students and families to help The Light House" if you are interested in learning more about how many service hours you can earn with these opportunities.

What is the Student Impact Reflection Form? This is a short answer form that we require all student volunteers, both on-site and off-site, to complete in order to receive service hour verification. This provides the student an opportunity to share what they have learned about our Light House community, our programs and how the student's service impacts the community we serve. Students should plan to fill this form out after completion of their service. Visit <a href="https://www.annapolislighthouse.org/SIRF">www.annapolislighthouse.org/SIRF</a> to view or complete the form.

## How do I get my Service Hours Verified?

All students requesting service hour verification, need to complete the following steps:

- 1. Connect with the Volunteer Office about how you would like to volunteer.
- 2. Sign-up via the online sign-ups (must be done by a parent or guardian if under 18) or confirm your volunteering with the Volunteer Office.
- 3. Complete your Volunteer Service. \*If volunteering as a student group, hours are divided among students.
- 4. Complete the Student Impact Reflection Form and turn in. (www.annapolislighthouse.org/SIRF)
- 5. Request Signature approval from the Volunteer Office or request Service Hour Acknowledgement Letter

Please reach out to the Volunteer Office, <u>volunteers@annapolislighthouse.org</u> with any questions or ideas about volunteering.



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## 10 Ways for Students to Help The Light House

- Make UNBagged lunches using the <u>criteria on our website</u> and drop them off at The Light House to be distributed to our clients throughout the day. Be sure to <u>sign-up</u> to participate!
  Hours for every 25 lunches.
- 2. Organize a non-perishable donation drive in your community and bring the items to The Light House following our donation drop-off guidelines. Connect with our Pantry Coordinator to receive instructions, a flyer and donation drop-off guidelines by contacting <a href="mailto:pantry@annapolislighthouse.org">pantry@annapolislighthouse.org</a>. Must provide detailed outline of work; max 8 hours per drive.
- 3. Seasonal Wellness Kits: 1) Collect and organize Summer Wellness kits (anytime March August) that include travel-sized sunscreen, travel-sized bug spray, chapstick, sting relief stick or wipes, and personal wipes (no water required) all placed in individual ziploc bags. Or 2) Collect and organize Winter Wellness Kits (anytime September February) that include sunscreen, chapstick, two packs of hand warmers, weatherproof gloves, and a hat. 2 Hours for every 25 kits.
- 4. Organize Housewarming Kits for those transitioning out of The Light House and into their new homes. These kits include essential household items they need to start this new chapter of their life. Visit our website to learn about our Housewarming Kit guidelines. 4 hours for each Complete Kit.
- 5. Organize a Personal Care Drive for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Connect with our Volunteer Department to receive instructions and donation drop-off guidelines by contacting <a href="mailto:volunteers@annapolislighthouse.org">volunteers@annapolislighthouse.org</a>. Must provide detailed outline of work; max 8 hours per drive.
- 6. Paint and create Rocks of Hope and Kindness. These palm sized rocks are painted with bright colors and include inspirational words or messages for our residents and clients to read or to take to carry with them. Please maximum 10 rocks per child or family. 2 Hours per 10 rocks.
- Organize a Gift Card Drive and collect a variety of gift cards, in various denominations for our community to be provided to help with everyday items we do not have available.
  Must provide detailed outline of work; max 4 hours per drive.
- **8.** Host an onsite Resident Activity or Game Night for our residential community. This evening of funcan be BINGO, Trivia or a topic discussion, demonstration, or performance. Please contact volunteers@annapolislighthouse.org to coordinate.
  - Must provide detailed outline of work; max 4 hours per activity.
- Advocacy: Write letters to or connect with local and national leaders about homelessness in our area. Must provide detailed outline of work and copies of letters; max 4 hours.
- 10. Spread the word and educate others on how or why you help The Light House and the homeless community. <u>Our website</u> has lots of great information about our programs and how we serve our community!