

2021 Virtual Volunteer FAQ



Everything you want to know about becoming a Virtual Volunteer!

What is Discord? Discord is an online group chat platform originally designed for online gaming, but has since become a platform for users of all interests to communicate. This program is free to download to your computer or mobile device in the form of an app (check your phone's app store to find it). For more information on Discord terminology, check out the attached form.

How is the Virtual Volunteer program different? Teens will be able to work with the library in a lot of the same ways that they have in the past, except this time it will be online. Teens will join the library Discord and participate in programs and events through the text and voice channels. They will help in a variety of other ways, all from the comfort of their computers or mobile devices.

Will the program be completely virtual this year? Yes. The library does not currently have plans to have in-person programming for the time being. For the duration of this program, everything will be virtual. In the event that the library begins to have in-person programming again, in-person volunteer hours will be assessed and considered.

What if I don't have internet access? How can I participate? Teens who wish to participate can do so in a couple ways. They can access the server through their own devices, or they can access the server by using one of the designated computers in the library.

Why should I become a Volunteer? Volunteering on the WVKCPL Teen Discord server will give you the opportunity to learn new skills, gain public service experience, and become familiar in running virtual library programs. It's also a great way to meet new people and make new friends while earning required service hours for school.

Who can become a Volunteer? Teens ages 12 (by May 31) – 18 (not a high school graduate) may apply for the Virtual Volunteer program. High school graduates are ineligible.

We are unable to accept volunteers in need of court-ordered community service.

How do I apply? Volunteer applications will be available online at kanawhalibrary.org/community/teen-zone and at all KCPL locations beginning April 26, 2021. Returning Volunteers are required to complete a new application. Applications must be completed and returned by **May 14, 2021**. Applications can be returned in-person, or online to drew.stanley@kanawhalibrary.org. Applications returned after **May 14, 2021** will not be considered.

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What will I do as a Volunteer? Volunteers will be responsible for a variety of tasks that will vary, based on Volunteer experience and skill. The following are examples of typical Volunteer work:

- Assisting with special events and programs.
- Helping prepare virtual programs.
- Creating digital advertisements for social media posting.
- Writing book reviews on items read by the Volunteer.
- Participating in virtual programs.
- Creating digital content for library social media.

When does the Volunteer program start? The Volunteer program runs concurrently with Summer Library Club, June 1 – July 31. New Volunteers will be required to attend a virtual orientation in May. Volunteers may be contacted individually for volunteer opportunities throughout the rest of the year.

Will there be opportunities to volunteer throughout the year? Volunteers who have proven themselves during the summer will have the chance to earn more hours throughout the year, depending on the library's need of volunteers. Check with your local teen librarian or the Discord leaders for more information.

How will I know if I've been accepted into the Volunteer program? Applicants selected to serve as Volunteers will receive an email and/or phone call by May 17, 2021.

If accepted into the Volunteer program, how many hours will I work? Volunteers have the opportunity to work up to 20 hours a week, depending on the needs of the server. Volunteers are not permitted to work longer than 4 hours in a day.

If accepted into the Volunteer program, what sort of training will I receive? New Volunteers and their legal guardians will receive general training at a virtual orientation at the end of May. All Volunteers will receive training for specialized tasks during their volunteer shifts.

For other questions or concerns, contact Andrew Stanley at

andrew.stanley@kanawhalibrary.org or call 304-343-4646 ext. 1251.