

**GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF GREATER LOWELL**

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about our Volunteer Program**

**Q: Does every applicant automatically get a volunteer position?**

A: No. We have a limited amount of volunteer positions. There is a screening and interview process and only qualified applicants will be considered.

**Q: How long does it take to become a volunteer?**

A: The application, interview, background check, and orientation process can take up to 3 weeks to complete.

**Q: I'm not available on a consistent basis, can I still volunteer?**

A: Consistency is key for our kids and crucial to ensuring the optimal volunteer experience. We do require a fixed volunteer schedule and 32 hours of commitment from all individuals looking to help out directly with the kids. Shifts are based upon your personal schedule and the needs of our kids. Most volunteers choose to do 4 hours/week for 8 weeks or 2 hours/week for 16 weeks. We know this commitment isn't for everyone so we are happy to provide you with a list of one time opportunities if this doesn't fit with your busy schedule.

**Q: What hours can I volunteer?**

A: Our Club hours of operation are 2:00pm-8:00pm Monday-Friday, however the majority of all volunteer shifts are from 2:00pm-4:30pm Monday-Friday. If your availability is before 2:00pm we have a variety of other opportunities including landscaping/yard cleanup, cleaning, and administrative tasks.

**Q: Is there an age requirement for volunteers?**

A: Yes, to be eligible for the volunteer program at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell you must be at least 18 years of age.

**Q: What types of volunteer opportunities are there?**

A: New volunteers looking to work with the kids are placed as "Homework Helpers" assisting youth ages 7-12 with their daily homework. This position is Monday-Friday from 2:00-4:30pm. Volunteers with previous experience can be placed in music, art, technology, serving Dinner, athletics, weight lifting, fashion design, photography, robotics, aviation, or a variety of other programs. Please inform us of any special skills and interests you may have. Opportunities to help out with administrative tasks, landscaping, yard cleanup, and cleaning are available.

**Q: I have service hours I need to complete for school or another organization, can I do them at the Boys & Girls Club?**

**A:** Yes, you are eligible to apply just as all other volunteers do as long as you can comply with our volunteer guidelines. You must be able to commit to at least 32 hours of service, complete a mandatory background check, and schedule an orientation. Club hours are 2:00pm-8:00pm Monday-Friday. Space is limited and volunteers are accepted on a first come first serve basis. Contact us for more information at [volunteer@lbqc.org](mailto:volunteer@lbqc.org). Volunteers with deadlines inside one month will not be considered.

**Q: Are volunteers subject to background checks?**

**A:** Yes, a background check prior to volunteering is mandatory. Volunteers are not responsible for the costs associated with the background check.

**Q: I'm interested in volunteering but I don't like noise, is there a quiet room I can volunteer in?**

**A:** The Club is not ideal for volunteers who can't handle noise and large groups of kids. We have over 300 Club members in our building each day and they are having FUN! This doesn't make for a quiet environment. Volunteers are never left in charge of a room without staff members, but they should be comfortable in this setting.

**Q: Will I be left in charge of kids?**

**A:** Volunteers are placed in program spaces with Club staff members. You are not required to manage or supervise a room of kids. Volunteers are here to enrich the experience of the kids not to provide discipline

**Q: Can I bring my child with me to volunteer?**

**A:** There are several one-time opportunities throughout the year that are family friendly, but all volunteers must go through the orientation process prior to volunteerism. Our regular volunteer program is for adults over the age of 18. Volunteers may not bring their children unless they are Club members and it is during our normal hours of operation. If you're unsure please check with our Volunteer Coordinator.

**Q: I have an idea for a new activity, can I start it up at the Club?**

**A:** Please feel free to contact us to discuss your ideas. We do have limitations including space, materials, and Boys & Girls Club staff supervision but we love new ideas! Some new activities past volunteers brought to the Club include: sewing, Zumba, yoga, knitting, and even origami!

**Q: I am only available during the summer, can I volunteer for the summer months only?**

**A:** We recommend that all those interested in helping out during the summer months begin volunteering 2 months prior. Summer is the most intense time here at the Club and we want everyone to feel prepared. Volunteers are encouraged to start the learning process beforehand but it is not mandatory. Summer session generally runs from right after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July through mid-August and the Club is open from 9:00am-5:00pm, Monday-Friday.

**Q: I don't see any opportunities that fit what I'm looking for but I'd love to know more about the organization.**

**A:** Please feel free to reach out to talk more about your interest at [volunteer@lbqc.org](mailto:volunteer@lbqc.org) or (978) 458-4526 x 20. There are plenty of ways to get involved and we'd love to have you schedule a tour!