



## YMCA of Greater Charlotte – Volunteer FAQ's

### 1) I'm not a member of the YMCA. Am I qualified to volunteer?

- Yes! Members and non-members are welcome to volunteer with the YMCA! *(Please note that you will not receive member benefits as a volunteer)* We offer a range of opportunities that require different skills within each branch. We will help you find an opportunity that fits your skills and interests, and we'll provide training (if needed). Youth volunteers must be at least 12 years old to volunteer on your own; all volunteers under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian during volunteer service.

### 2) When can I start as a volunteer?

- If we have a volunteer job match for you, you can start right away. If you choose to volunteer at special events you can let us know that you are interested and we'll give you the details for the event. If you want to volunteer in one of our programs at the Y, you will need to complete the Volunteer Handbook/Application, a criminal background check, online Child Abuse Prevention Training, and orientation before you begin.

### 3) Do I have to meet any criteria before I can become a volunteer?

- The YMCA is responsible for protecting the children and other vulnerable people we serve. In addition to the items above, we are required to perform a background check on volunteers ages 16+ before they can volunteer in certain roles.

### 4) Will volunteering take a lot of my time?

- You can choose how much time you would like to give as a YMCA volunteer. Whether you want to help out occasionally or on a regular basis, we'll work together to find a role that fits your schedule. *\*Volunteers under the age of 18 may volunteer up to 4 hours in one day and no more than 5 days a week.*

### 5) Does volunteering at the YMCA count towards community service hours required by my school?

- Yes! By volunteering at the YMCA you can earn volunteer credit toward the hours you are required to complete for school, as well as gain valuable experience. Please see your school for required service forms.

### 6) Does the YMCA accept court ordered community service?

- The YMCA of Greater Charlotte has chosen not to accept court ordered community service. If you need hours to satisfy a judgment due to criminal offense please seek opportunities elsewhere.

### 7) What if I need to break my commitment to the YMCA or I don't like my volunteer role?

- If you need to break your commitment, please let the Volunteer Coordinator know. If you don't like the current volunteer role that you have, we have many different volunteer positions and we encourage you to speak with the Volunteer Coordinator about other opportunities.

### 8) If I move to another YMCA Association outside of the YMCA of Greater Charlotte, can my volunteer application and trainings be transferred?

- Each YMCA Association is unique in how they operate any program, including volunteerism. We encourage you to contact the association you plan to move to and inquire about volunteer guidelines and trainings.