

PPCW Volunteer Frequently Asked Questions

Below are answers to the most frequently asked questions about our volunteer program. We hope you find this information helpful.

What is the process of becoming a volunteer?

The first step is to [register](#) online – by doing so you will be notified via email of volunteer and internship opportunities as they become available. If there is a current opening and you apply, we'll contact you upon receipt of your volunteer application to schedule an interview (phone or in-person, depending on the position). This interview allows you and a representative of PPCW to discuss the volunteer opportunity at greater length, answer your questions about our organization, and set up a plan of next steps. Depending on the position you are applying for, a background check may be required prior to placement.

How long will it be before I can start my volunteer work?

From the time we receive your online application, it can take anywhere from one to eight weeks to get started. This includes time to set up and conduct an interview, complete a background check screening, for you to attend volunteer orientation (not required to begin volunteering) and any other classroom training required for the position (not applicable to all positions).

When and where does the volunteer work take place?

We have volunteer opportunities in our health centers (eight sites in Oregon and two in SW Washington), fundraising and special events, administrative offices, and the education department. Some volunteer work is done in the community at various events.

What type of volunteer work can I do?

We offer many types of opportunities to meet the interests and schedules of our volunteers. [Click here](#) for a general overview of our volunteer opportunities. Some positions have limited availability, require classroom training, or ask for a minimum commitment.

What if the volunteer opportunity I want is currently not available?

We will keep your application on file and notify you when openings are available. You will be notified via email when the volunteer position you requested is available.

Do you offer internships?

We offer internships and post all open positions with our [volunteer opportunities](#). If you don't see an opportunity that interests you, we accept proposals for internship projects and work very hard to accommodate special requests. Please contact the Director of Volunteer Services for more information regarding internships and the proposal process.

Can teens volunteer?

Yes! Many teens have volunteered with us and have made important contributions to our mission. Opportunities for volunteers under the age of 18 include: Teen Council Peer Educators, providing clerical support in one of our health centers, and clerical projects at our Portland administrative offices. Recruitment for our Teen Council program takes place each spring for the following school year. If interested in Teen Council Peer Education, we recommend you plan in advance as this is a popular position.

What kind of training can I expect?

All agency volunteers are invited to attend a volunteer orientation at our Portland administrative office prior to beginning volunteer work. While attendance is not required, this orientation will familiarize you with our organization, our services, our security measures and confidentiality policies, and our volunteer opportunities. Orientations are scheduled every six weeks and generally take place in the evening. Depending upon your volunteer position, additional training may be required before placement can occur.

What kind of commitment do I have to make?

We offer volunteer positions compatible with most schedules, from occasional or on-call to regularly scheduled assignments. Some of our volunteer opportunities ask for a minimum six-month to one-year commitment. A high degree of reliability and a commitment to your schedule are required for any type of volunteer position. For security reasons, "walk-in" volunteer opportunities are limited.

Can I receive community service/service learning credit for my volunteer work with PPCW?

Not all volunteer positions are available for community service/service learning credit. Most of the positions available for credit are at our administrative location in Portland. Please provide information on your application regarding the nature of your community service so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Still have questions? Contact the Director of Volunteer Services at 503.280.6150 x2176 or Melisa.Kern@ppcw.org. We look forward to your active participation as a volunteer!