

The Woodlands
WATERWAY



arts festival



APRIL 13-14
2019

VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK 2019

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION - April 5, 2019, 5:30pm
ALL VOLUNTEERS

PLEASE REVIEW **PARKING AND VOLUNTEER CHECK-IN** INFORMATION
ON **PAGE 6** OF THIS DOCUMENT

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for The Woodlands Waterway Arts Festival!

The Woodlands Arts Council's mission is to provide access to a broad array of art experiences and to support arts education in The Woodlands and Montgomery County.

Our volunteer team understands this mission, and works towards the Council's goals by volunteering for one of our many positions during the Festival. Our Charity Partners benefit from the hours worked as we donate a portion of our proceeds to their Charity after the festival.

By volunteering, you are supporting The Woodlands Arts Council and are truly the backbone of the organization and Festival. It takes a team of almost 600 each year to produce our events, and we thank you for helping.

2019 marks the Festival's 14th year. This celebration of the arts attracts art patrons and tourists from across the nation and will feature 200 national artists.

Each volunteer will be allowed free admission into the Festival with the opportunity to browse and shop before and/or after their assigned working shift. In addition, each volunteer will receive a commemorative volunteer Festival T-shirt and light refreshments during their shift.

You will be working in a fast-paced, exciting environment. We enthusiastically welcome your friends, family, and coworkers, to volunteer at the Festival or at any of our many events throughout the year (Summer Art Project, Dan the Drummer events, Art Bench tours, and many other fun events. please invite them to join us by registering at <https://woodlandsartsfestival.volunteerhub.com/account>

Thank you for your dedication to the arts in our community, and we'll see you at the Festival!

Kelly Batterson

Festival Director 2019

Wendy Hammarstrom

Volunteer Coordinator

Danielle Skelton Reeves

Volunteer Committee Chairperson

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VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE - CONTACT INFORMATION

Wendy Hammarstrom - Hammarstrom@thewoodlandsartscouncil.org

Danielle Skelton - Skelton.danielle@icloud.com

For questions about Volunteering, please send an email to Hammarstrom@thewoodlandsartscouncil.org.

For information about this year's Festival, please visit: www.woodlandsartsfestival.com.

VOLUNTEER - GENERAL OBLIGATIONS

The Woodlands Waterway Arts Festival depends on its volunteers to perform critical duties contributing to the success of the event. Be sure to browse and shop the festival before and/or after your shift, and be sure to enter the daily raffle at the Volunteer Tent when you check in. The raffles will be drawn at 2:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers early in the week can choose which day's raffle to enter. If you volunteer both Thursday and Friday, you may enter both Saturday and Sunday. Prizes are still being collected but we have dinner coupons, coffee, and more.

Every volunteer will receive a **commemorative t-shirt which is to be worn ONLY during the working shift and NOT while visiting the festival before or after the working shift(s).**

We expect our volunteers to display warm and welcoming courtesy to patrons and artists, to perform their duties with commitment to the overall success of the Festival, and to represent the community in a positive light.

We expect our volunteers to be on time for their assignments, communicate any issues, concerns, delays, etc., to the Volunteer Coordinators; remain at their posts until a relief volunteer is available if needed, and to complete their assignment by remaining at their post until relieved. Relief volunteers will be available to accommodate breaks and any unforeseen emergencies.

Volunteers will be assigned to various duties. While all positions are critical to the overall success of the arts festival, the Volunteer Coordinators will assign individuals to ensure that all critical posts are covered in a priority manner. We understand that there may be restrictions and requests for specific post assignment and/or working partner assignments. We will do our best to accommodate requests and ask that each volunteer understand that we may need to adjust assignments to ensure that all positions are covered at all times. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility.

The Woodlands Waterway Arts Festival provides a highly desirable venue to the artists, and provides a unique and positive experience for our community.

Our volunteers help make the event a success and **WE THANK YOU** for your dedicated participation in this outstanding community event.

Volunteer Committee,

Wendy and Danielle

IMPORTANT VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

VOLUNTEER SHIFTS

Working Shifts vary by job assignment, but most are 4 hours long on Saturday and Sunday. **We will do our best to accommodate your requested volunteer area, but please understand that we might change your assignment based on Festival needs at the time.**

Please be ready to pitch in wherever needed and be prepared to work your entire shift.

- **This is a rain or shine event! Dress for the weather conditions and wear comfortable clothing and shoes.** It's a good idea to bring a hat and sunscreen, along with other items you may need for being outdoors. Please do not bring valuables and keep in mind that we are unable to store any personal items at Volunteer Check-in.
- **Volunteer commemorative t-shirts are to be worn during your working shift(s) and not while visiting the festival before or after your working shift(s).**
- **Be prompt** and allow yourself plenty of time before the start of your shift. We ask that you check-in **at least 30 minutes** prior to your shift start time.
- If you are unable to make your shift, and are unable to find someone to work in your place, please contact us immediately via email.
- Do not leave your assigned area (except in the event of an emergency) until the next shift has arrived and is prepared to take over.
- **All volunteers (new and returning) are requested to review the Volunteer Handbook prior to the Festival. This will not only make you aware of any changes, but also help ensure you have a rewarding and fun experience.**

VOLUNTEER PARKING & CHECK-IN:

SATURDAY and SUNDAY

To park close to the Volunteer Tent, park in the **ORANGE lot** located at the corner of Grogan's Mill Road and Timberloch.

The Orange Lot provides easy access to Volunteer Check-in at **GATE 2 – Off Riva Row.**

Check-In at the Volunteer Tent located by **GATE 2 – Off Riva Row**, next to the Riva Row Boathouse as you walk toward the Pavilion from the Orange Lot.

ARRIVE 30 minutes prior to your scheduled volunteer time. For GPS and Map Quest, use the following address:

2101 Riva Row, The Woodlands, TX 77380

At Check-in, you will be provided with your Volunteer Wrist Band, which will allow you entrance to the Festival. If you did not receive your t shirt, you will receive at check in. There is no changing tent, but you may use the nearby restrooms.

YOUR TIME IS VALUABLE TO US!

For questions please send an email to: hammarstrom@thewoodlandsartscouncil.org.

**MANY THANKS for making
The Woodlands Waterway Arts Festival
one of the best in the country!**

VOLUNTEER EVENT GROUPS

Following are some descriptions of our volunteer positions. If yours is not included, you will be contacted by us or your Committee Chair.

FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES:

ACMC Stage/ARTopoly Gate and Support - Volunteer Check-in:

Check in all performers listed for ACMC and all ARTopoly volunteers. Check in for performers and ARTopoly is at Gate 1, the main entrance to the Festival.

ACMC Stage Set-up and Support:

Set up chairs and tables prior to opening of the festival, assist with setting up and striking performances during the festival hours as needed, and greeting and checking in scheduled performers.

Art of Food:

Ensure cooking demos start on time; monitor timing of demo; assist the chef with sampling to the audience; assist with signage (chef name); ensure area is clear of trash; welcome the audience, & introduce the chef. Ensure equipment is functioning properly. You will receive more information from the AOF Chairs.

Artist Check-in (Thursday & Friday): Greet artists as they arrive, distribute artist information packets, and ensure all paperwork has been completed.

Artist Relations:

PHYSICAL STAMINA REQUIRED. LOTS OF WALKING. LIGHT LIFTING MAY BE REQUIRED.

Walk the venue and aid the artists, as needed, during Festival hours, such as providing water and refreshments, booth sitting for an artist to take a quick break, delivery of patron purchases, running quick errands, as well as reporting any problems/concerns to appropriate personnel.

Artist Relations Tent

Assist requests from the artists or assist coordinating the efforts of other Artist Relations volunteers. This tent is located near Gate 3.

Flex Team

Ready to do whatever is needed to support the Festival and “fill in” to cover any last-minute requirements. We will do our best to make assignments at the time of check-in; however, please be aware that there may some waiting for your assignment while we evaluate the needs of the festival.

Gate Coordinator:

Along with regular gate duties (greeting patrons, confirming entry wrist bands, passing out programs), these volunteers will have additional responsibilities to ensure their gate is fully staffed, volunteers have water, breaks are taken, and will be available to answer questions. Any issues or questions will be communicated to the Gates Supervisor.

Gate Monitor/Greeter:

This position may require standing for the entire shift and exposure to the elements. Greet patrons at entrance gates, confirm patrons have the correct wrist bands or lanyard credentials, and pass out programs. May also be requested to assist with the sale and distribution of wrist bands. Ensure gate areas are free from trash, specifically, the boxes the programs come from.

Security personnel will be posted at each gate; greeters are not expected to confront or challenge anyone entering the venue without the proper admission wrist band.

Load-In - Parking Lot (Thursday & Friday):

Assist in the queuing of Artist vehicles for unloading.

Load-In – Rovers (Thursday & Friday):

Assist artists to enter the venue with minimal hassle, then facilitate quick unloading so access is not blocked. These volunteers are NOT to handle art without Artist approval. MUST be able to lift and carry heavy items. You will be contacted by the Chair prior to move in with more information.

Load-Out Parking Lot (Sunday):

Assist with the queuing up of Artist vehicles for loading up and exiting the festival. They are NOT to handle art without the Artist's approval. Some of these volunteers may be assigned to assist with loading artist vehicles. MUST be able to lift and carry heavy items.

Palette Cafe Stage - All-Day Assistant:

Assigned to either the main stage or one of two secondary stages. This is an all-day job with breaks only when convenient for the bands and the Entertainment Director. Volunteers will be assigned to a band. Must be proactive, cheerful, and able to drive a golf cart as well as carry/load heavy items when requested by the band. Volunteers will be around loud music, and it is often hot.

Palette Cafe Stage - Assistant:

Assist performers at either the main stage or one of the secondary stages. Duties could involve helping performers as they arrive in the Library parking lot for load-in; at the stage with the crew during a performance, and until the performers are finished and ready for load-out. May be required to drive golf cart to transport.

Student Art Scholarship Tent – Art Exhibit:

Monitor the Student Art Exhibit located in ARTopoly; answer general questions; and oversee the safety of the exhibits from unauthorized handling by patrons. Friendly faces and the ability to multi-task are important.

Student Art Tent – Early Inspiration Gallery:

The Early Inspiration Gallery is an exclusive area for children where they can purchase art. Volunteers will answer questions and assist with art sales. Friendly faces and the ability to multi-task are important.

Volunteer Check-In:

Check in volunteers as they arrive on Festival Days, includes signing in; verification of where hours are donated; and distribution of T-shirts. Fast-paced, sometimes hectic environment. In groups of 2, we will be checking on Volunteers (via a golf cart when possible) throughout the Festival grounds for needed breaks, water, and to answer any questions.

Watercolor Terrace Stage Set-up and Support:

Volunteers for this position will help set up chairs and tables prior to opening of the festival, assisting with setting up and striking performances during the festival hours as needed and greeting and checking in scheduled performers.

Watercolor Terrace Stage Supervisor:

Greet and check in scheduled performers and assist with stage managing duties as needed.

Patron Art Pick up:

Receive, organize alphabetically, watch over, and release items to patrons when requested. Purchased Art will be brought to you by the Artist Relations team. Some heavy lifting may be required. No art is to be released to a patron without proper receipt and personal identification. This area is not to be left unattended. If a break is needed by both volunteers, contact Volunteer or Artist Relations Chair.

Market

These volunteers will help set up the Festival Market prior to festival days and will assist in the sale of Festival merchandise during Festival hours.

Artists / Awards Breakfasts

Set up the Continental breakfast, including the Award Breakfast for artists. Coordinate with Committee lead any needed food pickups.

Terrace Hospitality Club

Welcome & Check In guests; assist with signage; assist with food & beverage display & replenishment; ensure seating is organized; check in guest packages; ensure area is clean & tidy.

You may be answering general Festival questions and will have the information at your disposal.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:

In an extreme emergency call 911.

For any other minor emergency, contact any staff member who has a radio. Radios will also be at each Admission Gate and at the Beverage booths. Or, call the Volunteer tent at: 832-775-2920.

Minor First Aid is available at The Chi St. Luke's First Aid tent on the main pathway across from the Palette Cafe. There, they can help with minor emergencies, help guests that may be overheated, need some water and a place to rest. We will have security at each gate and 2 EMS bike teams that will handle more critical medical or security emergencies. Lost & Found is located at Gate 1. The Lost & Found (Gate 1) booth will also be our home-base for any Lost Children that need to be reunited with parents. When you have a lost child you need to contact someone with a radio and give them a description but not a name and our security team will alert the staff on radio and reunite the parents or guardians with the child as quickly as possible. Security will be instrumental in helping all lost kids.

**Thank you for your time and help
supporting
The 2019 Woodlands Waterway
Arts Festival**