

Harrisonburg City Parks and Recreation Needs You! Allow us to connect you to a way to make a positive difference in the life of another.

Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation will be hosting a series of events for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, called the “Canteen Program.” We are asking your organization / sports team to get involved by bringing refreshments and engaging in social as well as recreational opportunities. Sharing and caring is the best description of your volunteer experience.

Unbelievably, there are no costs to any of our participating members. All of our services, dedication, and fun, food, and good times are free. This makes volunteering a critical part of the organization. This is an opportunity to develop and foster new relationships and to help host meaningful and successful events for all our Canteen program participants.

Combining our numerous programs with amazing volunteers is the reason Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation continues to be so successful. Join us now as a volunteer, as we try to help those who mean so much to us and our Harrisonburg community. Fun nights including dances, athletic events, craft nights, game nights, and many other events will bring us all, members and volunteers, together for fun, relaxation, exercise, and positive social interactions.

Historically our volunteers have served our service needs by volunteering time, refreshments, decorations, and ideas for fun and engaging activities and events.

Some organizations may be able to use this experience for meeting additional service learning credit hours and/or volunteer requirements. With that in mind, below are a number of expectations that will help everyone gain a more specific understanding of what this experience will entail.

1. Setting up the facility for the event. This includes but is not limited to set up of tables and chairs, bleachers, audio system, as well as break down and clean up. This also includes helping with making and/or setting up decorations, helping to prepare, provide, and serve refreshments for the events, all as needed.
2. Engagement with participants is key. You may engage with them by sitting, conversing, and even possibly dancing with participants depending on the activity. The focus is on positive engagement.
3. The expectation is that all volunteers report to the event 30 minutes prior to the start of the event.
4. Volunteers should be able to provide their own transportation to and from the event.
5. The Harrisonburg Recreation Department will provide overall supervision of the event and help to provide instructions and directions for all volunteers.

Attached is the Fall schedule of events for our “Canteen Program” at the Harrisonburg Recreation Department. Please feel free to respond with a date of which you or your organization / Team (and an approximate number of volunteers) would like to participate. Your response will serve as a most important commitment to this opportunity.

All dates are on a first come first serve basis, so please respond at least one week prior to events, to Sarina Hartman, Recreation Specialist, by e-mail at Sarina.Hartman@HarrisonburgVA.gov or call 540-433-2474.

Thank you for your favorable consideration,

Sarina Hartman
Recreation Program Specialist
Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation
540-433-2474 (Office)

540-433-9169 (Fax)