



Portland Rescue Mission

VOLUNTEERING AT THE MISSION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Portland Rescue Mission is a soup kitchen, right?

We have two approaches to serving the Homeless community: 1) Emergency Services at Burnside Shelter—providing breakfast and dinner daily to the public, access to 24-hour bathrooms, clothing, hygiene items, and men's overnight shelter. Also, 2) Recovery Programs at The Harbor and Shepherd's Door – year-long residential addiction recovery programs for both men, women, and women with children using a holistic approach focusing on spiritual formation, life skills, and addiction recovery.

Is it safe to volunteer downtown?

Portland Rescue Mission takes precautions to maintain a safe environment for everyone entering our facilities. Staff at our Burnside Shelter are trained in de-escalation techniques and most staff are CPR/AED certified.

Do you ask for a commitment?

We ask for a 1 year's commitment to volunteering on a consistent schedule. We feel consistency and relationship; regular service and knowing our guests by name, is part of what makes us successful and adds to what we offer our guests.

What do I need to do to volunteer?

Apply! Everyone interested in volunteering must complete a volunteer application to begin the volunteer application process.

Where can I apply to volunteer?

Groups and individual volunteers can apply to serve by visiting www.PortlandRescueMission.org/Volunteer. We only accept applications submitted via the website.

What does the volunteer application process look like?

The volunteer process entails completing an application, a brief phone interview with a Volunteer Coordinator, attending a tour or shadow of a volunteer role, and undergoing a background check if necessary. Depending on the season and need, the volunteer process can take up to 2 weeks.

Can I sign up to volunteer this weekend?

In most cases, this is not a possibility. We strive to place volunteers in a role that best suits them and fulfills the needs of the Mission.

What types of volunteers do you need?

We have two types of volunteers, Community Volunteers, and Volunteer Staff. The qualifications differ based on commitment level, personal values, and church involvement. Community Volunteer roles are available to everyone. Volunteer Staff roles are reserved for applicants that believe and demonstrate a life that reflects our Statement of Faith ([link](#)).

That seems unfair, why not allow everyone to volunteer where there's a need?

As a Christian faith-based organization, Portland Rescue Mission takes seriously the integration of our beliefs into all that we do. Those invited into Volunteer Staff roles are held to the same standards and expectations as Mission staff.

What are some things volunteers do?

Direct service roles are in direct service to our guests. Opportunities include meal service, hosting a meal at The Harbor or Shepherds Door, Guest care or bible studies. Indirect service roles or "behind the scenes" roles support the Mission's effort to meet the needs of our guests. Opportunities include sorting donations, service projects, or volunteering for a telethon.

I'm part of a group, how can we volunteer?

We partner with many local business, churches, schools and non-profit organizations. Apply to volunteer as a group and we'll do our best to find you a volunteer opportunity that suits your group.

Can minors volunteer?

Children 8 years of age and older can volunteer at our Burnside Shelter. Youth 14 years of age and older can volunteer at The Harbor and Shepherd's Door. All minors 17 years of age and younger need to serve under direct supervision with an adult aged 18 or older and complete a Minor Consent form.

Can I volunteer for school or court-ordered Community Service hours?

We're unable to support short-term volunteers or fulfill court-ordered volunteerism.