

RGVLS Museum Jr. Volunteer Leadership Program Guidelines for 2022

Application Deadline: Postmarked or received by **October 15th, 2021** to:

**RGVLS
Attn: J. Guerra w/ Museum Youth Leadership
1000 N. Texas Ave.
Mercedes, TX 78570**

APPLICATION PROCESS: All applicants must be a registered member and in good standing of a 4-H or FFA Chapter. Jr. Volunteers must reside in Hidalgo, Starr, Cameron or Willacy Counties.

All Jr. Volunteers and their parents will be registered in the RGVLS tracking system and will be bound by the rules of conduct and code of ethics set up for all volunteers associated with RGVLS.

All children 14 years and under will be required to be accompanied by a parent/adult sponsor while on duty. The parent/sponsor is responsible for bringing all children less than 14 years of age to their first assignment. The parent/adult sponsor will help with introductions and orientation within the museum operation. This is a liability issue for the show operation. For parents that are already serving on the museum committee please be aware that the work plan might not always be able to accommodate you and your child working at the same time. A good faith effort will be made to accommodate everyone but you need to know your commitment upfront. If you are required to be with your child you may serve additional hours in the museum or arrange for another adult sponsor to be with your child at the time of their work slots.

All youth must reapply for the RGVLS Jr. Volunteer Leadership Program yearly except for the 2022 show. We are allowing those youth that have been on the committee in the previous show to step forward first as they had no control over the Covid crisis. Selections for new members be made by a committee of no less than 3 persons from the RGVLS Museum Membership. All decisions will be final and not subject to any appeal process. The decisions of the committee are final.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: All applicants must accept and agree to serve no less than 4 – 2-hour work shifts in the RGVLS museum hosting our guests and games for the children. The museum will be open from the first Saturday thru the last Saturday of the show. The hours of operation are from 10 AM to 8 PM during that time period. A work schedule will be released prior to the show and only 2 junior work slots per shift are being allotted at this time. The work slot/hours on the plan are as follows:

10 – 12
12 - 2
2 - 4
4 - 6
6 - 8

Once a candidate commits to a schedule there is little room for change as this committee supports over 60 volunteers. Unavoidable emergencies are always acknowledged but we try as best possible not to have overbooking as that will leave other work shifts under staffed. The child and the parents must coordinate well on this topic. All exhibitors and parents need to review the official RGVLS Premium Book for a listing of completion events. This will help you plan for your volunteer activities.

As the museum work plan is released in early January of 2022 it is strongly recommended that the Jr. Volunteer and his/her sponsor (if required) do not sign up to work on days when they are scheduled to compete unless they are interested in working in the evening hours after their competitions are over. Many times, events take longer than planned so take time to focus on your project area(s).

DRESS CODE: Depending on the weather long pants or hemmed shorts will be acceptable while on assignment. All shirt tails must be tucked in and a belt worn with the pant. No hats worn while on assignment. We are trying to instill in our youth that their personal presentation is very important to their success at the RGVLS.

There is no dress code for the shoes worn – just be clean and comfortable.

All applicants will be required to purchase a uniform shirt that **MUST BE** worn while on duty in the museum. The cost of the uniform shirt for the 2022 Stock Show will be @ \$20 for each Jr. Volunteer. If any adult/sponsor wishes to purchase a shirt the cost will be @ \$30. They will be responsible for obtaining their shirts from Stitch Gallery in Harlingen, TX. This uniform shirt is not a mandatory item for the adults shadowing a youth position. If the adult/sponsor does not want to purchase a uniform shirt we have free RGVLS museum uniform vests that can be used during these work sessions. All sizes are available.

FORMS: Each volunteer/adult shadowing a younger child will be given a volunteer packet and an ID badge/lanyard that must be worn while on assignment in the museum. The contents of the packages will be discussed at a later date.

Jr. Volunteer families will only be allowed to purchase one “X” parking pass. This pass will only be available to those candidates not already covered by any show activity parking pass. Exhibitors will receive their parking arrangements through their club 4-H Club Manager or FFA teacher. The cost of this parking area for a Jr. Volunteer will be \$15 or as determined by the RGVLS office.

MEETINGS/ COMMUNICATION: All candidates and their parents/adult sponsor must attend a mandatory training session(s) in order to participate. Those selected will attend the first **mandatory training on October 24, 2021 at the RGVLS Museum in Mercedes at 2 PM**. Additional training and news updates will be released closer to the show dates. All volunteer contracts will be signed at this meeting.

The parent/sponsor assumes all duties for transportation and oversight of the Jr. Volunteer needs for this program. A signature of the young member and a parent/adult sponsor will be required on the application form.

All communications from the RGVLS office will be forwarded to the parent(s) listed on their application for volunteers under the age of 14 or if the parent so requests that mail go directly to them.