



YOUTH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FAQ's

How old do you have to be to volunteer at The INN?

The minimum age to volunteer at our soup kitchens is 10 years old. Children ages 10-15 are able to volunteer with an adult chaperone during after school shifts when guests are not present. In order to help prepare and serve a meal to guests, volunteers must be at least 16 years old.

When are youth volunteers able to help out at The INN?

Volunteer shifts are available to children ages 10-15 at the Mary Brennan INN in Hempstead on Mondays and Wednesdays between 2:30-4:30pm. All volunteer dates must be scheduled at least 1-2 weeks in advance.

Students ages 16 and up, are able to participate in the main volunteer shift at the Mary Brennan INN in Hempstead, Monday-Friday from 8:30am-2pm. This shift includes helping to prepare and serve a meal to guests.

Are there any other opportunities for children under 10 years old to help?

We encourage all children to support The INN in different ways. If a child is too young to physically volunteer at the soup kitchen, they can help in other ways, by collecting non-perishable foods, clothing (in-season only) and seasonal items to donate, or organizing an activity with their school or youth group.

What kinds of volunteer opportunities do you have for High School Students?

In addition to volunteering at the soup kitchen or The INN's executive office, High School students are encouraged to join our Youth Advisory Board. The board is made up of High School students from all over Long Island who meet once a month during the school year to discuss and address the issues of hunger and homelessness in our neighborhoods. Students are given the opportunity to organize fundraisers and participate in volunteer activities for The INN. Meetings take place monthly at the Mary Brennan INN, located at 100 Madison Avenue in Hempstead.

High School students are also invited to hold collection drives of non-perishable foods, clothing (in-season only) and personal care items.

Are there any volunteer opportunities for youth on the weekends?

Unfortunately, all of our facilities are closed on the weekends, so there are no volunteer opportunities available on Saturdays and Sundays.

What are the responsibilities and activities of youth volunteers?

While volunteering in the soup kitchen, students are able to help prepare the facility for the following day. This can include sorting through food or clothing donations, stocking pantry shelves or cleaning the kitchen and dining room. Students over 16 years old will be able to do all of the above, as well as help prepare and serve a meal to 250-400 guests on any given day.

Are there any opportunities for youth to volunteer at your shelters?

Due to the nature of confidentiality of guests living in our emergency shelters, we do not accept any volunteers (besides licensed social workers) at our homeless shelters.

Can youth volunteers get community service credit for volunteering at The INN?

Yes. We are happy to fill out any forms or papers to confirm community service participation for students who volunteer at our soup kitchen or participate on our Youth Advisory Board. Participation must be in person and requests for confirmation should be expressed to a full-time staff member in advance.

How can I get my youth group involved?

Youth groups are invited to schedule a day to volunteer at the Mary Brennan INN soup kitchen, located in Hempstead. Children under 16 can only volunteer during the afternoon shift, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:30-4:30, after guests have left the facility.

For additional information, or to schedule a volunteer day for your child please contact:

Toni Ebron, Volunteer Supervisor, Mary Brennan INN

516-486-6243 x206

tebron@the-inn.org

To schedule a volunteer day for your school or community group, or to invite an INN representative to speak to your group, please contact:

Dana Lopez, Communications & PR Manager

516-486-8506 x138

dlopez@the-inn.org