

Summer VolunTEEN Program

Summer VolunTEEN Program 2018

The Summer VolunTEEN Program at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital gives teenagers the opportunity to witness the impact volunteering has on the community and explore careers in the medical field. The program is divided into three sessions with eight VolunTEENs in each session. High school students ages 16-18 are encouraged to apply for this program.

Completed packets are due by Thursday, May 17th at 3:00 p.m. Absolutely no late packets will be accepted. All teens will receive an email informing them of their status in the program by Thursday, May 24th at 6:00 p.m. Please be patient and wait on the email before you call. The application for the VolunTEEN program is a packet of information that you will collect and turn in; there is no actual application to submit online. If you have participated in the teen program in the past, you will not be considered for this year's program.

Specifics about the VolunTEEN program:

- 3 sessions
- June 25th-29th
- July 9th-13th
- July 23rd-27th
- Shifts are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (Teens will be responsible for their own lunch and transportation)
- Teens will need to be available for all five days which will add up to (30) total volunteer hours. If the teen is not available for all five days, they will not be allowed to participate in the program.
- Eight VolunTEENs will be accepted per session. Teens will only be accepted into one session.
- Available to teens ages 16-18 years old and still in high school. Teens must have turned 16 by June 1st. Proof of birthdate must be provided on immunization records.
- Opportunities available include: taking several carts around room to room to pass out coffee, hot chocolate, tea, toiletries, toys, books, blankets, hats, crafts, etc., clerical work for departments, interacting with patients/siblings in play/waiting areas, and shadowing/learning about various careers throughout the hospital.

A completed packet includes:

- A 500 word essay explaining why the teen should be picked for the Summer VolunTEEN program at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. Essays must include the teens name, the teens email address, the teens phone number, what grade the teen is in and all sessions that the teen is available to attend in order of preference. The essay should discuss past volunteer experience, future goals/plans, interest in the medical field, past experience working with children and why volunteering at Le Bonheur is important to them. The teen's name, email, phone number, grade and session preference will not be counted as part of the 500 word essay.
- Three letters of recommendation. No family members will count as a reference. The letters must be sealed and signed by the person writing it. The letters must be in three separate envelopes.
- One must be from a teacher

- One from a supervisor of some sort (supervisor of a school club, coach, boss if working, volunteer manager, etc.)
- One of their choice
- Copy of immunization records, showing proof of two MMR's (with two different dates), Tdap vaccine and proof of varicella immunization or date of chicken pox. Immunizations must also show teens date of birth.

Teens will not be considered if their 500 word essay, three letters of recommendation, and proof of immunizations are not turned in together or if any of the above information is missing.

If you know someone that is interested in this program, please make sure of the following:

- The teen has expressed a sincere, personal desire to work with kids and volunteer at Le Bonheur. The goal of this program is to encourage teens to work independently. Should the teens have any questions, we ask that they call our office themselves instead of their parent calling for them.
- The teen is motivated, outgoing and passionate about working with kids. The shifts that are available require self-starters and those who are comfortable initiating conversation.
- The teen should be trusted to function independently, with little supervision. This should not be the first time a teen has worked with kids.
- The teen should be able to pass a background check.

Once the teens are selected, there will be no exceptions. Our first goal is to create a safe environment for our patients. Our second goal is to provide a memorable and fun experience for the teens. Please keep this in mind when you make referrals.

Please feel free to contact Allison Smith at 901-287-6284 should you have any questions about the VolunTEEN program. Please mail or drop off packets to the address below. Packets that are emailed to us, faxed to us or turned in late will not be considered. Please do not call us and ask us for an exception to this rule. Please note: when mailing your packet in, getting to the post office the day before it is due, will not ensure your packet will make it in time. Our hospital has a delivery screening process that will delay mail getting to us about a day or longer. I do not recommend waiting until the last minute.

Please make sure the outside of your envelope says exactly what is listed below. Please mail or drop off completed packets to:

Volunteer Services

Attn: VolunTEEN Program

Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

50 N. Dunlap

Memphis, TN 38103