

Youth Volunteer Teams

Thank you for volunteering at the Kitsap Humane Society, and welcome to our volunteer team! Youth Volunteer Teams are essential to helping us achieve our mission of providing positive, life-changing solutions to people and companion animals. We value your help and look forward to working with you! The following pages provide an overview of how our Youth Volunteer program operates and what services Youth Volunteer Teams can provide.

A youth volunteer is any KHS volunteer aged 13 to 15 years old. Youth Volunteer Teams are comprised of a youth volunteer and their parent/guardian. Youth Volunteer Teams may also be comprised of 2 youth volunteers and their parent/guardian.

The following rules apply to all youth volunteers, regardless of their volunteer start date or prior agreements with KHS staff members or volunteers.

Rights and Privileges for Youth Volunteer Teams

- Youth volunteers are able to do many things while at KHS, including but not limited to handling animals, customer service related tasks, joining the "Counsel Courtesy" Team, and being a Photo Team "muse". Please review the volunteer position descriptions listed in the Volunteer Manual for more positions that are open to youth volunteers.
- In addition to volunteer work at the shelter, KHS encourages its youth volunteers to:
 1. Participate in off-site events such as parades and Adoption Outreach; man information booth at community events
 2. Organize donation drives and group shelter clean-up projects with their schools
 3. Help with animal transports
- Youth Volunteer Teams may volunteer during all normal volunteer hours.

Responsibilities & Regulations for Youth Volunteer Teams

The shelter is a stressful environment for animals, and as a result these animals can be potentially dangerous. To ensure the safety of youth volunteers, Youth Volunteer Teams must abide by the following regulations:

- The youth volunteer cannot volunteer at the shelter if they are not accompanied by their parent/guardian. The parent/guardian must be an official KHS volunteer.
- The parent/guardian must attend all training classes alongside the youth volunteer.
- While at KHS, the youth volunteer and their parent/guardian must remain together at all times. The youth volunteer and their parent/guardian must remain within sight of one another while working at KHS.
- If working with the dogs:

1. The youth volunteer and their parent/guardian must remain within arm's reach of one another.
 2. The youth volunteer may only hold the leash for some dogs. It will be left to the parent/guardian's discretion as to which dogs the youth volunteer may walk. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to ensure that the youth volunteer only hold the leash for dogs which they can safely and securely walk.
- If working with the cats:
 1. Youth volunteers may handle Level 1 (Green), Level 2 (Blue) and Level 3 (Purple & Yellow) cats, if they have completed the necessary training classes to handle these levels/colors.
 - Youth volunteers are given **lime-green** name badges, and must wear these while volunteering at KHS or participating in any off-site events.
 - Youth Volunteer Teams are required to sign the KHS Volunteer Contract, and must renew this Volunteer Contract on a yearly basis.

The above regulations also apply to off-site Special Events and Adoption Outreach.

Due to the potential for danger, injury, or disease transmission that exists in many areas of the shelter, youth volunteers are not permitted in the following areas while volunteering at KHS:

- Receiving
- Feline Holding
- Feline Assessment
- FISO (Feline URI)
- Dog Holding
- Euthanasia Room
- Recovery
- Surgery
- Isolation

The above areas are off-limits to youth volunteers even if they are accompanied by their parent/guardian, an adult volunteer, or a staff member.

Some volunteer assignments contain a higher potential for danger or injury than others, and other volunteer positions require extensive customer service experience. For these reasons, youth volunteers are not eligible to participate in the following volunteer assignments:

- Feline Assessments
- Canine Assessments

- Adoption Counseling
- Receiving/Admissions Assistant
- Level 4 Cat Handling
- Vet Services Assistant
- Cleaning & Surgery Prep

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