



SUMMER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM FAQ

Q: What do Summer Teen and Junior Teen Volunteers do?

A: They contribute to a vibrant floor presence across the museum by engaging with guests through hands-on science experiences and assisting in Camp McWane classes.

Science Engagement duties:

- Facilitate STEM activities and demonstrations with visitors throughout our Adventure Halls and Itty Bitty Magic City.
- Interact with visitors by interpreting exhibits and creating meaningful experiences through conversation, encouraging visitors to test, explore, and play.
- Assist with restaging and closing procedures for various exhibits and areas.

Summer Camp duties:

- **Before Care and After Care:** Volunteers engage campers in games and activities before Summer Camps begin and after they end before campers are picked up by their parents/guardians.
- **Camp Assistance:** Volunteers aid Educators with camp activities, experiments, and demonstrations; chaperone campers to the restroom; help with setup and cleanup in classrooms; and help supervise campers in the Adventure Halls.
- **4K-K Checkout:** Volunteers escort 4K-K campers from the classroom to the camper checkout location to meet their parents/guardians.
- **Lunchroom Duty:** Volunteers engage campers in games and activities after they finish eating lunch and chaperone campers to the restroom.

Q: What is the difference between a Teen Volunteer and a Junior Teen Volunteer? Which do I apply for?

A: Teen Volunteer applicants will have completed 8th grade or above before Summer 2026. Junior Teen Volunteer applicants will have completed either 6th or 7th grade before Summer 2026.

Teen Volunteers are expected to complete 100 hours of service between June and August; Junior Teen Volunteers are expected to complete 50 hours. Completion of minimum service hours allows volunteers to continue volunteering during the following school year.



Q: What would my schedule look like as a Summer Teen Volunteer?

A: Shifts are scheduled from June through August. Monday – Friday shifts are from 8am – 5pm, Saturday shifts are 10am – 5pm, and Sunday shifts are 12pm – 5pm. Volunteers can sign up for either half-day or full-day shifts. Junior Teens shadow Teen Volunteers and can only work weekday shifts until completing their minimum 50 hours of service. After that time, Junior Teens will be able to volunteer on weekends and will not need to shadow.

Volunteers can sign up for Science Engagement shifts or Camp shifts. These are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis, with new shifts releasing every two weeks.

The length of a volunteer's scheduled break is dependent on their shift. Half-day shifts get a half-hour break; full-day shifts get a one-hour break.

Name: Jaxon 8-5

Date: Friday, 07/10/26

Time	Location
8:00	Before Care
8:30	Before Care
9:00	1st-2nd Grade Camp
9:30	1st-2nd Grade Camp
10:00	1st-2nd Grade Camp
10:30	1st-2nd Grade Camp
11:00	1st-2nd Grade Camp
11:30	1st-2nd Grade Camp
12:00	Break
12:30	Break
1:00	Interpret Lower Level
1:30	World of Water Cart
2:00	Interpret/Restage Level 1
2:30	Demonstration Station
3:00	Interpret/Restage IBMC
3:30	Explore Lab
4:00	Interpret/Restage Level 3
4:30	Close Level 1

Name: Jaxon 12-5

Date: Friday, 07/10/26

Time	Location
8:00	
8:30	
9:00	
9:30	
10:00	
10:30	
11:00	
11:30	
12:00	Lunchroom Duty
12:30	Lunchroom Duty
1:00	5th-7th Grade Camp
1:30	5th-7th Grade Camp
2:00	5th-7th Grade Camp
2:30	Break
3:00	5th-7th Grade Camp
3:30	5th-7th Grade Camp
4:00	After Care
4:30	After Care



Q: What are the application requirements?

A: Candidates must submit a completed application with a resume, an educational or professional letter of recommendation written by a non-family member, and a character reference letter written by a non-family member. **Applications must be submitted no later than March 31st. Late applications will not be considered.**

We do not provide a template for supporting documents, but a few suggestions:

- **Resume:** This is our chance to see a snapshot of what you've accomplished and where you are currently involved. Use online examples for ideas on formatting and examples of information to include. Writing a resume can sound daunting, but you probably have more experience than you think!
- **Educational/professional letter of recommendation:** This can be written by a teacher, coach, volunteer coordinator, or someone familiar with your work in a professional or educational setting who can speak to your qualifications.
- **Character reference:** This should be written by a non-family member who can speak to your quality of character. Choose your references wisely and give them ample time to prepare your letter.

Q: How do I submit the application and required documents?

A: Use the Summer Teen Volunteer Application links on our website, **mcwane.org/volunteer**. You can attach supporting documents as .pdf, .doc, or .jpg files. Applications without proper supporting documents will not be considered.

Q: Am I guaranteed a spot in the program if I apply?

A: No, we receive more applications for the program than we have available spots. Please keep this in mind when you are filling out your application; it will serve as your introduction before we have a chance to meet you. We want to see thoughtful answers that reflect your own unique perspective and voice. **We expect the candidate to complete the application, not their parent or guardian.**

Q: Will I need to interview for the program?

A: Yes. Interviews will be conducted during the month of April. All applicants will receive an email invitation to sign up for a 30-minute interview slot. You do not need to bring anything to the interview, but you may want to practice answering common interview questions beforehand. You can find these and other tips for interviewing online.

If you have any questions, please contact us at **205-714-8254** or email **volunteer@mcwane.org**.



Q: When will I find out if I have been selected for the program?

A: All decisions will be sent out via email the first week of May. Selected volunteers will have one week to return their signed offer letter accepting their place in the program.

Q: If I am accepted, what are the training requirements?

A: All Summer Teens and Junior Teens are required to attend one of two training sessions, each a two-day commitment. Training dates will be included with the acceptance email and offer letter.

Q: Can parents/guardians attend the orientation and training session?

A: No. However, we will hold an optional parent/guardian information session in May.

Q: Is there a dress code for volunteers?

A: Yes. All McWane Science Center staff and volunteers must adhere to the team wear policy outlined in the Employee and Volunteer handbooks. Volunteers may wear solid, neutral-colored (black, khaki, gray, brown, navy, or olive green) pants, skirts, or shorts. Plain denim jeans are also acceptable. There can be no rips or tears, and skirts and shorts should be no shorter than a credit card's length from the top of the knee. Additionally, all clothes must be workplace appropriate, meaning no gym shorts, sweatpants, etc., and volunteers are required to wear a watch to keep track of time. Volunteers will be provided with McWane team wear.

Q: Is there a fee to participate in the program?

A: No. There is no fee associated with our Summer Teen Volunteer Program.

Q: Can parents/guardians come with their child when they volunteer?

A: No. We view this program as a professional development opportunity for our Teen and Junior Teen Volunteers, and we place a high degree of trust in them. Our volunteers interview, receive specific training, and maintain a schedule while developing strong customer service, public speaking, and other skills that will aid in their future careers. We find volunteers learn more when they are allowed to explore and experience on their own.



Q: Why should I volunteer?

A: There are countless reasons to volunteer! This is an opportunity for new and unique experiences while also meeting the needs of your community. Volunteers get to...

- ... make new friends and be part of a team.
- ... explore career and personal interests.
- ... share their knowledge and passions with others.
- ... learn something new and uncover hidden skills or talents.
- ... earn recommendations and references for future employment or educational pursuits.

McWane Science Center also extends these valuable benefits to our volunteers:

- Free one-year family membership after completion of 100 service hours.
- Free parking in the deck while volunteering.
- 10% off meals at Beansprouts, our café.
- 25% off in the Cool Stuff Store.
- Free screenings of IMAX documentaries.
- Letters of recommendation/reference based on service upon request.

We hope you will apply for the Summer Volunteer Program!