

COVID-19 Volunteer Service Policy

Public Statement about Volunteer Work

As the pandemic continues to impact our community we understand that many people are looking to get outside and create some positive change. We deeply appreciate all the people looking to volunteer with us to protect the French Broad River. While we can't host volunteer projects at the same capacity we have in the past we still hope to engage the community in their watershed. If you're looking to get involved please reference our **COVID-19 volunteer service policy**.

RiverLink is not an expert in public health. We will continue to monitor Federal, State and local policies and update as those public health agencies recommend various ways to keep all of us safe. This policy was created for the health and safety of our volunteers and staff, if your group meets our volunteer requirements please reach out to us at volunteer@riverlink.org to set up a service project.

Volunteer Requirements

- We only work with groups of 15 or less from the WNC area on projects in open space outside.
- Staff and volunteers are required to socially distance and wear masks during the entire service day except:
 - Masks can be removed while doing invasive plant removal while separated from other group members or next to other volunteers of the same family unit.
- Volunteers must bring **their own work gloves**.
- Groups should be limited to their quarantine pod/cell/family unit (people they are already in frequent contact with).
- All volunteers must be age 10 or older.
- If anyone feels sick or feverish leading up to the service day they must stay home.
- All volunteers must sign an updated waiver in which they agree to the policy above and certify that they have not had any recent exposure to COVID-19.
- Anyone who refuses to follow our policies such as wearing masks before beginning the work will be asked to leave. In extreme situations, RiverLink staff will cancel a service day early if the policies and procedures cannot be followed.

RiverLink Requirements

- Volunteer groups will only be asked to assist with projects where social distancing is possible.
- All tools must be sanitized before and after every service day. Clorox wipes and/or bleach and water mixture is appropriate for cleaning.
- We will not provide safety vests to reduce staff exposure.
- If multiple staff members are participating in the service day they will arrive at the work site in separate vehicles.
- We will provide hand sanitizer and additional masks for volunteers.
- We must have a low-risk staff member willing and available to work with groups for any proposed service day.
- If participating staff members feel sick leading up to the service day they must find another staff member to work with the group, or try to reschedule the service project.

References

- [CDC Guidance for Summer Camps and Youth Activities](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Administrators of Parks and Recreation Facilities.](#)
- [NC Health and Human Services Guidance.](#)
- [Buncombe County Health and Human Service - Covid 19](#)