



# Osceola School District

## School Volunteer

### Questions and Answers

#### **1. How do I become a volunteer in the schools?**

To become an OASIS volunteer, interested individuals must register online at <https://volunteer.osceola.k12.fl.us/>. Prior to any volunteer work, the online application must be completed and approved. Returning volunteers need to update/renew their application each year. The application must be filled out completely.

#### **2. Why do you need by birth date and social security number?**

The Osceola School District conducts both local and national background checks on individuals interested in becoming OASIS volunteers. There is no cost to the volunteer, and the individual doesn't need to provide fingerprints. By obtaining this criminal history information, the Osceola School District can more effectively screen the volunteers who have contact with our children.

#### **3. I'm not a teacher. Can I still volunteer?**

Yes! The Osceola School District has many retired teacher volunteers; however, a teaching background is not required because a volunteer works under the direction of the professional staff and always assists in a supervised setting. The qualifications needed to be a school volunteer are a personal desire to help, a sincere interest in students, the ability to follow school procedures and policies, and a willingness to make a time commitment.

#### **4. How do I find out what volunteer services are needed at my school?**

Every school has a volunteer coordinator to help and assist you. Your volunteer assignment will be determined by your skills, interests, and preferences, as well as the volunteer service needs of the teachers and staff at the school.

#### **5. I'd like to volunteer, but I can't offer my services on a regular basis. Can I still volunteer?**

Of course! You may be a special activities volunteer who is involved with school projects when needed. This time commitment for the volunteer job will depend on the specific project/event of the school.

#### **6. Can I bring my preschool child with me to volunteer?**

Bringing small children is discouraged as it prevents the volunteer from giving full attention to the students. However, you can still help the school by making arrangements to do volunteer work at home.



**7. Suppose I don't' feel qualified to perform the assignment I have agreed to undertake?**

Feel free to discuss your concerns, reservations, and preferences with the teacher or school's volunteer coordinator. Remember that there are lots of volunteer jobs that might better fit your needs.

**8. What do I do about student discipline?**

Simply nothing. Disciplinary action is the legal responsibility of teachers and school staff. Volunteers should never be put in a position of having to enforce discipline. Immediately notify the teacher or staff member if you are encountering a discipline problem.

**9. My friends and neighbors will ask about school. What may I say?**

Volunteers can be a big help in interpreting the school to the community. We want you to talk about your school and your involvement. However, you may learn "confidential" information which, of course, should be treated as such. "Confidential" information is defined as the personal records, grades, test scores, behavior, and attitude of students. "Confidential" information is important school business and must never be discussed outside of the school. Also remember that criticizing school personnel and school practices is not acceptable. Your job in school is as a professional working with other professionals. Address comments and concerns to school staff members only.

**10. Am I allowed to lend students money?**

Volunteers should avoid lending money to students so that parents are not expected to return unauthorized expenditures.

**11. If a student who I am working with complains of a sore throat, can I give the child an aspirin or a cough drop?**

Medication should not be dispensed by a volunteer at any time. The student should be sent back to the teacher, or to the school nurse, so that state and district required procedures are followed.

**12. Is there a dress code for volunteers?**

Volunteers should dress appropriately to be good role models for students.

***Have more questions?  
Please ask your school's volunteer coordinator  
or call the district's OASIS Department  
at 407-870-4080 today!***