

# Volunteer Gwinnett NEWS



December, 2021

## Greetings!

Welcome to Volunteer Gwinnett News, a quarterly newsletter to help you stay informed about opportunities to volunteer, how to become a volunteer, and the work volunteers are doing in our community. Volunteers are an essential part of Gwinnett County Government; their selfless contributions ensure projects get done, improve the community's quality of life, build partnership bonds, save tax dollars, and keep us all vibrantly connected.

## We Need You!

### Volunteers needed at warming stations

Gwinnett County opened warming stations for residents to receive temporary, overnight relief from long-term exposure to forecasted temperatures 35 degrees and below. When activated, warming stations are available from 6:00pm to 7:00am. Residents visiting the sites are able to warm up, eat a meal, and get some rest.

Volunteers are needed to assist staff with helping organize check-in materials, greet residents, monitor program areas, help with set-up/break down, and other related station tasks.



To find out more and register for this opportunity visit [Volunteer Gwinnett](https://www.volunteergwinnett.com) or email [OneStopHelp@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:OneStopHelp@GwinnettCounty.com).

## Weekly Mobile Food Distributions continue



In partnership with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, Gwinnett continues to help mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic through our weekly mobile food distributions.

To date, over 13,421 households have received 432,737 pounds of fresh and shelf-stable food, impacting 52,918 residents. Distribution will continue into 2022 through Gwinnett Community Services.

We need your assistance to continue this important service into 2022. [Sign up to volunteer with us](https://www.volunteergwinnett.com) or if your community organization would like to host a Tuesday food distribution, email [VolunteerGwinnett@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:VolunteerGwinnett@GwinnettCounty.com).

The Grayson High School Boys Lacrosse players and coaches joined the Gwinnett Police Department's Community Affairs team to volunteer for the October 26 Mobile Food Distribution in Loganville.

Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services Outreach team assisted with loading vehicles and registering participants for free smoke alarm checks during the November 30 distribution in Lawrenceville.



## Gwinnett County Employees back in action at JA Discovery Center



Gwinnett employees were happy to re-engage with Junior Achievement of Georgia through volunteerism at the JA Discovery Center Gwinnett for the 2021-2022 school year.

To date, a total of 60 volunteers representing various county departments and agencies including Community Services, Communications, the District Attorney's Office, Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services, and more have assisted both sixth and eighth grade students from Trickum Middle School, Summerhour Middle School, Hull Middle School, Twin Rivers Middle School, and Shiloh Middle School.

County staff worked with the students to help them understand personal finance through immersive simulations that build skills to successfully navigate today's complex economic environment. The work so far has helped more than 774 students and provided a total of 390 volunteer hours.

We are grateful for our partnership with Junior Achievement and believe in the value the program provides to both students and employees!



## Volunteers in Action



### Gwinnett Parks and Recreation

In 2021, the Gwinnett Parks & Recreation Volunteer Resources team had the pleasure of interacting with 1,921 volunteers who donated a total of 11,900 hours of time, giving back to their parks and communities.

These volunteers helped in critical ways. They removed more than 2,000 pounds of trash, eliminated invasive species, and planted around 1,500 native specimens to help beautify our parks and restore habitat for important pollinators and other wildlife. In addition, 250 community service workers completed more than 7,000 hours of court-ordered service.

With 70 different workdays arranged by churches, companies, schools, and other groups, our team has been able to work across 31 parks. We have also seen the completion and installation of 18 scout projects in the parks including benches, bird houses, and outdoor classroom spaces.

Each one of these volunteers has become an integral part of our parks' stories and enriched these shared spaces that we all value.

We can't wait to see everyone in 2022 and look forward to even more people from our diverse community joining us in the parks. We are immensely grateful for every single volunteer and organization that has partnered with us this year!

### Gwinnett Water Resources

Water Resources hosts stream cleanups throughout the year to remove trash and debris from our local waterways. The job could not be done without the help of Gwinnett's greatest resource – volunteers! Since January 2021, there have been 17 cleanup events from Lake Lanier to the Yellow River and everywhere in between. A total of 422 volunteers worked to collect 929 bags of trash totaling 15,900 pounds. They also collected 99 tires weighing over 3,000 pounds! That is 9.5 tons of trash and debris pulled from Gwinnett waterways in less than one year. Plus, there is still one more month to go! Stream cleanups are a great way to get into nature, get a little dirty, and make a huge difference for our environment.



Be on the lookout for more events coming up in 2022 on the [Volunteer Gwinnett website](#) and volunteer for [Water Resources](#) today!

## We need you; get involved!

Looking for ways you can give back to the community or help with similar initiatives? Check out our upcoming events, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service in January, and other projects on



Volunteer  
Gwinnett

**Volunteer Today!** [VolunteerGwinnett.net](http://VolunteerGwinnett.net)

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