

# Volunteer Gwinnett NEWS



July 2019

## Greetings!

Welcome to the Volunteer Gwinnett News, a new 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 today.

Volunteers are an essential part of Gwinnett County Government and our community. Their selfless contributions ensure projects get done, improve lives, build bridges, save tax dollars, and keep us all vibrantly connected.

## Q2 Volunteer Impact

**Volunteers: 15,609**

**Hours: 55,130**

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far in 2019! From working at events to serving on committees, we appreciate every person who contributes their time and talent to Gwinnett.

### Gwinnett Chamber Gives Back Workday

May 17, 2019

McDaniel Farm Park

Project highlights:

- More than 20 pallets of river rock were placed on the historic side of the park, which is almost 20 tons of rock!
- Planted 40 shrubs that are favorites for pollinators and an important food source for wildlife
- Planted 47 flowering pollinator-attracting perennial flowers
- Distributed seven dumpster loads of mulch around the new pollinator garden and trails.
- Removed three truck beds of privet and other invasive plant material from our trails and the pollinator garden site
- Assisted with continued beautification efforts on the park and historic side by picking up litter, removing three, five-gallon buckets of trash from the playground area and parking lot



### Christ the Lord Lutheran Church – Teen Summer Camp

June 13 and June 25, 2019

Rhodes Jordan Park

Project highlights:

- Removed 25 pounds of trash
- Privet removal
- Cleaned park signs

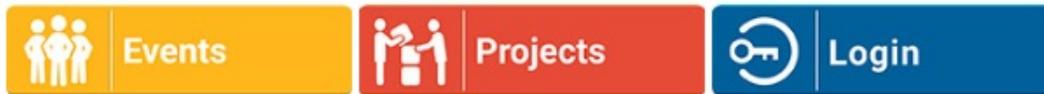


## Volunteer Process and Backgrounds

Gwinnett has numerous volunteer opportunities throughout County government. Finding one that fits your needs is simple.

- **Step One:** Visit [www.volunteergwinnett.net](http://www.volunteergwinnett.net)
- **Step Two:** Search current events, projects, and internship opportunities
- **Step Three:** Register as a volunteer

There are opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. Check out how you can help your community!



Gwinnett County highly values the safety of its volunteers and the people they serve. Upon applying for selected projects, volunteers are required to submit forms to complete a [background check](#) depending on the volunteer opportunity as well as a [waiver](#).

## Program Highlight



The Gwinnett County Family Violence Task Force is comprised of more than 20 volunteer agencies including nonprofits, law enforcement, religious entities, federal agencies, and county residents. A team of Gwinnett County volunteers makes up the board of the task force, guiding decision-making and future planning. The task force serves as a connection to resources for not only survivors of domestic violence but also for various agencies and individuals who may encounter survivors of domestic violence. The task force's goal is to address gaps and areas of concern as they relate to domestic violence, including batterers and the family members that witness these incidents.

The Family Violence Task Force hosts several training opportunities for the community to learn about this epidemic and ways they can help solve this reoccurring issue, and they participate in local community events to spread awareness. They also raise money and gather supplies to support our local domestic violence agency. With the help of county residents and local agencies, the Task Force can continue to bring awareness to the community. To find out how you can serve or get involved in this program, contact Sonia Davis-Bey at [Sonia.Davis-Bey@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:Sonia.Davis-Bey@gwinnettcountry.com).

## Liaison Highlight

The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center offers the public weekend programming, special events, outreach programs, festivals, summer camps, K-12, and home school programming, as well as more than 10 miles of trails. Volunteers play an integral part at the GEHC by assisting with many of these events and activities. Leading these efforts is Wendy Seigler, Program Supervisor in Educational Programming.

Wendy has worked 5 years with the Department of Community Services at the GEHC. She is a native of South Carolina with a background in education, and she has been living in Gwinnett for more than 14 years. Wendy became familiar with the center when her children were young and visited for the exhibits and field trips. "My children began volunteering at the GEHC when they were older because they loved the events and the people they came into contact with. It's a wonderful family friendly place to be and to volunteer."



"Many of our volunteers are young adults who discover through their volunteer experience that they truly enjoy working with children, education, nature and/or history. Most find themselves returning for multiple events." Volunteer Gwinnett has allowed them to reach volunteers throughout the county who

## Volunteer Gwinnett Liaisons



Volunteer Gwinnett offers Countywide volunteer opportunities, increases awareness about the County's roles and responsibilities, streamlines volunteer recruitment and placement, and supports government operations. Volunteers serve in many capacities in all County departments, boards, and County-supported organizations.

Each County department has a volunteer liaison. The liaisons understand the needs of their department and know where and what volunteers or interns are needed. They are also responsible for running volunteers' backgrounds and waivers as well as keeping internal records.

## We need you!



National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort. This annual event celebrates the connection between people and the outdoor space around their community.

Join Gwinnett Parks & Recreation and Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful by volunteering on **Saturday, September 28** from 9:00am to

1:00pm at **Tribble Mill Park** located at 2125 Tribble Mill Parkway, Lawrenceville, and **Jones Bridge Park** located at 4901 East Jones Bridge Road, Peachtree Corners. This event will feature volunteer projects, exhibitors, and guided hikes.

Volunteers will be able to assist with:

- Identifying and removing non-native plant species
- Planting trees and pollinator-friendly plants
- Trash and litter pickup along the shorelines
- Event set-up and break-down

Register here for:

- [National Public Lands Day at Tribble Mill](#)
- [National Public Lands Day at Jones Bridge](#)

[More upcoming volunteer events:](#)

- [Park'Nership Work Day](#) – August 17
- [Clear the Shelter](#) – August 17

[Ongoing Volunteer projects:](#)

- [Senior Transportation Assistance](#)
- [Live Healthy Gwinnett Internship - Fall 2019](#)

To see a complete list of volunteer events, [click here](#).

## Gwinnett County employees in action at JA Discovery Center

Gwinnett County Government employees are dedicated to giving back to our community by partnering with JA Discovery Center. They work with local school districts and local businesses to prepare students for tomorrow's demands. The center teaches kids how to make and spend money wisely with two simulation programs: **JA BizTown** and **JA Finance Park**.

Each month during the school year, County employees are encouraged to participate in JA Discovery, where they are able to share their real life experience and skills with the sixth and eighth graders who participate in the program.

What an amazing year it has been! **147** Gwinnett County employees impacted **1,651** Gwinnett County students during the 2018-19 school year.



## Volunteers in Action

Events that volunteers helped make a success!



Kids Fishing Day  
Jones Bridge Park  
June 1, 2019



Milkweed Planting Project  
Tribble Mill Park  
March 2, 2019



Department of Water Resources Open House  
Shoal Creek Filter Plant  
May 18, 2019



Prehistoric Pandemonium  
Gwinnett Environmental Heritage Center  
March 2, 2019



Smoke Alarm Blitz  
Station 11, Norcross  
June 29, 2019



Volunteer  
Gwinnett

**Volunteer Today!** [VolunteerGwinnett.net](http://VolunteerGwinnett.net)  
770.822.7955 • [volunteergwinnett@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:volunteergwinnett@gwinnettcounty.com)