

Why Do I Need To Be Screened?

Do you not trust me?



We do. But as a volunteer, you need to be screened – for your safety and the safety of others.

You have decided to volunteer. That means that you are willing to spend your free time helping an organization you care about work toward a greater good. Unfortunately, not all volunteer applicants have pure intentions like yours; we frequently hear accounts of volunteers harming one another, staff members, or the people they seek to help. That's why, even though you mean no harm, you – and every other individual that wants to donate their time – must undergo a screening process. It's the only way to ensure your safety and the safety of everyone around you.

Just like some of you, volunteer programs have typically been resistant to screening in the past – after all, it is known for being costly, time-consuming and inconvenient. But screening is no longer a nice-to-have. More and more organizations are now conducting background checks on volunteers. According to The National Center for Victims of Crime survey¹, 72% of nonprofit organizations submit their volunteers to a background check. This is for good reason. 1 in 10 volunteer background checks come back with a previously undisclosed criminal history. Still, there are some volunteer programs that haven't started screening yet. Of those, 13 percent avoid the practice simply because it might offend volunteers.² We recommend these organizations consider the safety of their staff and participants, the protection of their assets, and the impact a volunteer scandal could have on their reputation.

Yes, anyone – not just vulnerable populations like children, the elderly, or the disabled – can be impacted by volunteers with less than noble intentions. That's why screening is the law in certain circumstances.

In the end, a good screening process shows that the organization you are working with cares about their program and the quality of individuals who help them.

And here's the good news for you: today, volunteer background checks can be completed faster than ever before – and for a fraction of the cost. After a simple order process, and within a few business days, you can receive your background check and be ready to start volunteering. Is the organization you are volunteering with using Verified Volunteers as their screening provider? Learn more about how easy it is to order your check – and how, with the Volunteer Fast-Pass, you can share your check with an unlimited number of organizations.

REFERENCES

- ¹ "Who's Lending a Hand?" A National Survey of Nonprofit Volunteer Screening Practices. Victims of Crime. Last modified 2008. www.victimsofcrime.org/docs/Public%20library/who's-lending-a-hand.pdf?sfvrsn=10
- ² Background Checks for Volunteers. National Association of Professional Background Screeners, 2012. www.americanchecked.com/wp-content/uploads/forms/Volunteer-Position-Paper.php



The Verified Volunteers Difference

It's Easy

Our online volunteer community works just like the social networks you are used to. Simply register and create a profile — just fill in your information and describe your interests. Our network is 100% secure and private. There are no confusing privacy settings here.

It's Fast

Once you join, you can search for volunteer organizations and browse new volunteer opportunities. It's best to search for organizations near you, or those that fit your personal mission and abilities. You can also request and pay for your background check with just a few clicks. You'll get your volunteer screening results in a couple of days!

You're in Control

You own your background check. You can view it at any time, and can sign up for the Volunteer Fast-Pass to reuse it with an unlimited number of organizations.

About Us

Verified Volunteers helps nonprofit organizations gain confidence in the volunteers working with those they serve by delivering thorough, compliant background checks. By enabling volunteers to order, manage and share their background checks via a secure online platform, we create a community of vetted volunteers and help nonprofit organizations save time and money. Our extensive expertise in screening and compliance best practices help clients recruit the best volunteers in order to maintain a safe environment and positive reputation. Verified Volunteers is backed by Sterling Talent Solutions, one of the world's largest background screening companies, and partnered with Points of Light, the world's largest organization dedicated to volunteer service.

Visit www.verifiedvolunteers.com.

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