VOLUNTEERING AS F-1 OR J-1
STUDENT INFORMATION

All F-1 or J-1 Students who are considering volunteering must complete the attached “Volunteering as F-1 or J-1 Student Request to Participate in Volunteer Activity” form.

Due to many limitations that international students on F-1 and J-1 visas have pertaining to both employment and unpaid/volunteer activities, it is important to understand and follow the guidelines mentioned below.

Definitions:

- **Volunteer** – According to the United States Department of Labor (DOL), a volunteer is an individual who performs hours of service for a public agency for civic, charitable, or humanitarian reasons, without promise, expectation or receipt of compensation for services rendered. This means that you cannot receive any payments, (lodging, meals, gifts, or any other monetary or non-monetary form of compensation, per Coastal Carolina University’s interpretations).

- **Employment (pertaining to F-1 and J-1 status)** - According to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), employment refers to any “individual who provides services or labor for an employer for wages or other remuneration.” This means that you can receive payments, lodging, meals, gifts, or any other monetary or non-monetary form of compensation as a volunteer because it would be considered remuneration, per Coastal Carolina University’s interpretations.

Both of these definitions clarify what is and isn’t allowable volunteer activity for F-1 and J-1 visa holders.

Volunteer Activities MUST adhere to ALL of the following for all students in J-1 and F-1 status:

1. Any volunteer activity that is intended to take more than 20 hours per week is not permitted.
2. All volunteer activity must be done for a non-profit organization involved in civic, charitable, or humanitarian activity.
3. Any activity overseen by a campus department or organization that takes place on CCU’s campus and is available to any student, regardless of their citizenship, but as a part of their student status at the university can be the site of volunteering.
4. Activities sponsored by CCU clubs, organizations, or departments that are available to and encouraging of participation of a broad range of CCU student participants, may be excluded from the requirement of no in-kind remuneration, and allow for meals, transportation, housing and/or small gifts. Requests for this review must be provided to the PDSO/RO for Coastal Carolina University at least 1 week before participation. Such requests will be approved on a case-by-case basis and in the University's discretion.

Please complete the attached “Volunteering as F-1 or J-1 Student Request to Participate in Volunteer Activity” form, at least 1 week prior to intended volunteer activity.
VOLUNTEERING AS F-1 OR J-1 STUDENT INFORMATION
Request to Participate in Volunteer Activity

Please complete the form below and return it to Amir Maleki via email at amaleki@coastal.edu or by dropping it off at the Center for Global Engagement at Lib Jackson Student Union, A-109, at least 1 week prior to intended volunteer activity.

Name: _________________________________________
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Student ID: _________________________ Major: _________________________

Dates of planned volunteer activity: ____________________________
(Begin: MM/DD/YR) (End: MM/DD/YR)

Total hours of volunteer activity: _____

Name and address of organization for which you will volunteer: _______________________________

Do you anticipate/expect to receive, lodging, meals, gifts, or any other monetary or non-monetary form of compensation? ___Yes ___No. If so, which one(s)?

Activities in which you will be engaged as a volunteer for this organization is/are considered to be:
___ Civic ___Charitable ___Humanitarian

Please list activities and duration of the activities in which you will be engaged as a volunteer for this organization

Is there anything else pertaining to your volunteer activity that you need to share with our office? If yes, please explain.

By signing below, I acknowledge that the information I provided is true and accurate. In addition, I will wait to begin any volunteer activity and will fulfill any guidance or modification to that activity per the Center for Global Engagement department.

Signature __________________ Date ________________ Phone Number __________________________

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