

## **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](mailto: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