

FLORIDA
STATE FAIR



**YOUTH VOLUNTEER
PROGRAM
2025**



Youth Volunteer Program 2025

Florida State Fair Authority, P.O. Box 11766, Tampa, Florida 33680

Dear Florida State Fair Youth Volunteer,

Thank you so much for expressing an interest in our inaugural Florida State Fair Youth Volunteer program. The next Florida State Fair is scheduled for February 6 – 17, 2025. No previous experience is necessary. Youth Volunteer applications are due by December 22, 2024. A minimum of 20 volunteer hours is required as well as attendance of our annual Florida State Fair orientation. A date for this training has not yet been determined but it will be held on a Saturday afternoon. Youth Volunteers must provide the school documents required to receive community service hours toward graduation. The enclosed packet will provide you with information about the program, the roles and responsibilities of our Youth Volunteers, parental consent forms, an application form and reference form. After reviewing the application packet, please contact the Florida State Fair Volunteer Coordinator to set up an appointment for you and your parents or legal guardian.

Once again, thank you for expressing an interest in the Florida State Fair Youth Volunteer program. We are committed to providing an enriching and fun volunteer experience to all our Youth Volunteers!

Sincerely,

Dianne Stahl,
Florida State Fair Volunteer Coordinator
Dianne.Stahl@FloridaStateFair.com
(813) 404-5839



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2025 FSFA Youth Volunteer Waiver and Release Parent/Guardian Agreement on Behalf of Minor

I, _____ and _____, in consideration as a parent/guardian for
(Please Print Names of parents/guardians)

my minor child (age 16 to 17) serving as a Volunteer for and during the 2025 Florida State Fair [December 22, 2024 through February 24, 2025] (“Activity”), and in consideration of same, hereby release, waive, and discharge the Florida State Fair Authority, their officers, contractors, agents, or employees, (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “**Authority**” from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage or injury, including death, that may be sustained by my child or to the loss or damage to any property belonging to my child, or otherwise, while in, on or upon the premises, and covenant not to sue the Authority in connection with the same. It is my express intent that this Waiver and Release shall be deemed as a release, waiver, discharge, and covenant not to sue the Authority. I hereby further agree that this Waiver and Release shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida.

FURTHERMORE, as the parent/guardian of a minor child, I/we assume all risks of bodily injury to my child and give permission for him or her to be taken to a hospital and/or treated by licensed medical personnel for a medical emergency, illness, or injury; and for licensed medical staff to take emergency measures as they deem appropriate. I/We hereby release and forever discharge the Authority from all claims, demands, and causes of action whatsoever that may arise or may hereafter arise on account of any first aid or other medical treatment rendered to my child in connection with volunteer activities.

I authorize and release the Authority to use photos, videos, and audio of my child in promotional materials that support the Authority as well as any media coverage that may occur. I release the Authority from any liability connected with the use of my child’s picture or voice as part of any promotional, marketing, or other use.

I expressly understand that this Waiver and Release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by law, and that this Waiver and Release shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of Florida. I agree that in the event any clause or provision of this Waiver and Release shall be held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of such clause or provision shall not otherwise affect the remaining provisions of this Waiver and Release.

IN SIGNING THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE, I ACKNOWLEDGE AND REPRESENT THAT I have read the foregoing Waiver and Release, understand it and sign it voluntarily as my own free act and deed; no oral representations, statements or inducements, apart from the foregoing written agreement, have been made. My child is at least sixteen (16) years of age and fully competent to take part in this activity and follow all regulations pertinent to this activity as set forth by the Florida State Fair Authority. I execute this Waiver and Release for full, adequate, and complete consideration, fully intending to be bound by the same.

I have read this document and understand that it has legal consequences and signed it voluntarily.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date of Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date of Signature: _____

[] By completing this form, signing your name and today’s date, and checking this box, you signify that this information is complete and accurate and that you agree to this Liability Statement.



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POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

AGE REQUIREMENT

Youth volunteers must be at least 16 years old. Volunteers under the age of 18 are required to have signed permission (Youth Volunteer Waiver and Release) of all parents or legal guardians.

ATTENDANCE

Youth Volunteers will create a schedule with the Florida State Fair Volunteer Coordinator. Please provide at least two (2) hours' notice if you are unable to attend a scheduled volunteer shift as we are counting on your help during that assigned period of time.

DRESS CODE

While on duty:

- always wear your volunteer tee-shirt
- always wear your volunteer's name tag
- wear breathable, cool clothing
- finger-tip length shorts are permitted
- wear close-toed shoes

The following is prohibited:

- Leggings
- sweat pants
- flip flops or sandals of any type

DRUG-FREE/SMOKE-FREE PROGRAM

The use, possession or distribution of intoxicants and/or controlled substances on the Florida State Fair Authority property (including parking lots) is prohibited. Youth volunteers are prohibited from smoking, including vaping, e-cigarettes, and smokeless tobacco while on the Florida State Fair Authority property (including parking lots).

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Florida State Fair Authority Youth Volunteer Program does not discriminate based on sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or marital status. The Florida State Fair Authority Youth Volunteer Program also makes reasonable accommodations for volunteers with disabilities.

HEALTH

For the safety of our volunteers, staff, and patrons, do not come to the fairgrounds if you are ill in any way, including a cold, sore throat, fever, or cough.

INCIDENT REPORTING

Any incident in which you may be injured in any way must be immediately reported to the Volunteer Coordinator.

SAFETY

Always work in the presence of a Florida State Fair adult volunteer or staff member. Please know the emergency procedures and exits to allow you to follow the established emergency plan. If an accident occurs, immediately inform the Volunteer Coordinator. Never move anyone that has been involved in an accident. The adult you are working with will initiate the proper emergency procedures for any accidents.

SCHEDULED BREAKS AND LEAVING YOUR ASSIGNED AREA

Scheduled breaks (including meals) are required to be taken in the volunteer office. Youth volunteers are to bring their own lunch. Youth volunteers may not leave their assigned area or Volunteer Office without the permission of their parents or legal guardians. Permission must be given in person in the Volunteer Office.



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CHARACTERISTICS OF A YOUTH VOLUNTEER

- Treat everyone with patience, courtesy, respect, and dignity.
- Be positive, supportive, and caring in my speech and interactions with minors and vulnerable adults.
- Use positive words and encouragement.
- Maintain appropriate physical and emotional boundaries with minors and vulnerable adults. Examples of permissible physical contact include:
 - Brief side hugs or an arm around the shoulder.
 - Brief pat on the shoulder/upper back.
 - Handshakes or “high fives.”
- Always be in the presence of an adult when interacting with minors or vulnerable adult.

PROHIBITED BEHAVIORS

- Use of profanity.
- Being under the influence of alcohol, prescribed or illicit drugs that impair judgment.
- Providing or allowing inappropriate communication, including speech, music, photograph, video, or recordings.
- Accept gifts or give gifts without approval from the Volunteer Coordinator
- Use of earbuds, while on duty

SUPERVISION

For the protection of all youth volunteers, staff members, adult volunteers and visitors, the Florida State Fair Authority prohibits any one-to-one interactions between an adult and a child alone in any closed room or area that could be considered private. All youth volunteers will be supervised while on property, though the supervisor will change based on assigned tasks for that day. If you have any concerns regarding your supervisor, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator.

SUPERVISION AFTER 6PM

Persons 17 years of age or younger must be accompanied by an admission paying parent or guardian, 21 years of age or older with a valid ID, for entry to the Florida State Fair. A parent or guardian can supervise up to 4 persons 17 years of age or younger.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER CHECKLIST

- Attend a meet-and-greet with Florida State Fair Volunteer Coordinator and Parent/Legal Guardian
- Attend a mandatory Volunteer Orientation and Training Session
- Fill out and submit Volunteer Application
- Submit two (2) Volunteer Youth Reference forms
- Parent/Legal Guardian fill out and submit Youth Volunteer Liability Statement
- Connect with the Volunteer Coordinator to set up your volunteer scheduled.

I have read, understand, and agree to the policies and procedures of the Florida State Fair Authority Youth Volunteer Program.

Youth Volunteer Signature

Date

THE FLORIDA STATE FAIR AUTHORITY RESERVES THE RIGHT, AT ANY TIME, AND FOR ANY REASON, OR NO REASON, TO TERMINATE THE YOUTH VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OR SERVICES OF A VOLUNTEER



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FLORIDA STATE FAIR YOUTH VOLUNTEER DRIVER PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM

FSF Youth Volunteer Name _____ Date _____ Phone # _____
(Florida State Fair)

FSF Youth Volunteer's Driver's License Number _____ State _____

CARS THAT MAY BE DRIVEN TO THE FLORIDA STATE FAIRGROUNDS:

MAKE AND MODEL OF CAR	YEAR	COLOR	LICENSE PLATE #
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

The undersigned grants permission for the above FSF Youth Volunteer to drive a vehicle to FLORIDA STATE FAIRGROUNDS during the 2025 Florida State Fair scheduled for February 6th through the 17th (including pre-Fair set up, November 5, 2024 and post-Fair breakdown, February 25, 2025). The FSF Youth Volunteer must comply with The FSF Youth Volunteer Vehicle Policy and all Florida State Fair Authority policies and procedures.

PARENTS AND THE FSF YOUTH VOLUNTEER MUST READ AND SIGN THE SECOND PAGE OF THIS FORM. All liabilities due to accident or injury during transportation are the responsibility of the FSF Youth Volunteer and/or parents or guardians of the FSF Youth Volunteer. In the event of an evacuation, FSF Youth Volunteers will be required to immediately leave the fairgrounds and go directly home.

PLEASE CHECK ONE: My son/daughter may transport other FSF Youth Volunteers to and from the fairgrounds.
 My son/daughter may not transport other FSF Youth Volunteers to and from the fairgrounds.

I do not give my permission for my child to drive to and from the fairgrounds. I will be responsible for dropping off my child to and from the Volunteer Office (located in the Creative Living Exhibit of the Florida Center).

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Volunteer Coordinator Signature: _____

Approved by Volunteer Coordinator/Date: _____



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FLORIDA STATE FAIR YOUTH VOLUNTEER VEHICLE POLICY

A FSF Youth Volunteer may drive a private vehicle to the Florida State Fairgrounds under the following conditions:

1. A parental permission form has been completed and is on file in the Volunteer Office.
2. The FSF Youth Volunteer has a current/valid Florida state driver’s license, the vehicle’s registration and insurance are up to date and the FSF Youth Volunteer is insured on the vehicle.
3. The vehicle must be parked in the Volunteer parking lot in the spaces provided for volunteer parking.
4. The Florida State Fair car tag must be filled out and hung from the review mirror while on the fairground’s property.
5. The FSF Youth Volunteer may not be in the parking lot or in their vehicle during their volunteer shift without permission.
6. The FSF Youth Volunteer driver may not transport any other FSF Youth Volunteers to or from the Florida State Fairgrounds unless written permission is granted by the FSF Youth Volunteers’ parents or legal guardian. (This permission must be in writing and registered with the Volunteer Coordinator).
7. The FSF Youth Volunteer driver must drive with caution and reasonable care on Florida State Fair property to ensure the safety of others. The slightest infraction of traffic laws or deviation from reasonable driving methods will result in the loss of this driving privilege.
8. The FSF Youth Volunteer driver agrees to drive safely and in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations on and off the Florida State Fairgrounds.
9. If the Florida State Fairgrounds must be evacuated for any reason, the FSF Youth Volunteer must leave the grounds immediately and proceed directly to their home.
10. The parent(s)/guardian(s) and/or the FSF Youth Volunteer and/or the driver assume the risk of harm, injury or death to the FSF Youth Volunteer or others, and that by voluntarily allowing the FSF Youth Volunteer to operate his/her own vehicle, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the FSF Youth Volunteer will hold the Florida State Fair and its officers and employees harmless and free from all liability and hereby release any claims, demands, and causes of action against Florida State Fair, whether known or unknown, that may accrue as a result of operating a vehicle.

I have read and agree with these provisions as well as the rules in the FSF Youth Volunteer vehicle policy:

Parent Signature: _____ Print Name _____

Parent Signature: _____ Print Name _____

FSF Youth Volunteer Agreement: I, the undersigned FSF Youth Volunteer, have read and agree to the provisions above. I understand that driving to and from the Florida State Fairgrounds is a privilege and carries serious responsibilities. I understand that my car is effectively “off limits” while I am at the fairgrounds (no loitering in and around my car during my shift, lunch, or break). I agree, under the responsibility of my parent(s)/guardian(s), that driving is a serious responsibility. I agree to obey laws and regulations on and off the fairgrounds and that I will in no way abuse the privilege to drive to and from the fairgrounds. I understand that my privilege to drive to and from the Florida State Fairgrounds can be revoked at any time and for any reason at the Volunteer Coordinator or fairground administrator’s sole discretion.

FSF Youth Volunteer Signature: _____ Print Name _____ Date: _____



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REFERENCE FORM

Thank you for taking the time to refer the following student for one of the limited youth volunteer positions at the Florida State Fair. Additional comments can be added to the back of this page. Directions on how to return this form are also on the back of this page.

Student Name _____ Grade _____

Name of School _____

How do you know the applicant? _____

On a scale of 1-5 (5 being the highest and 1 the lowest):

- This student works well with others: (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

Comment: _____

- This student can take on a leadership role: (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

Comment: _____

- The student can demonstrate self-discipline: (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

Comment: _____

- The student is respectful and courteous to peers and adults: (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

Comment: _____

- This student cooperates with others during group activities: (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

Comment: _____



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Additional Comments: _____

Thank you!

Please mail the reference form to:

Dianne Stahl,
Volunteer Coordinator
Florida State Fair Authority
P.O. Box 11766
Tampa, Florida 33680

The form can also be scanned and emailed to: Dianne.Stahl@FloridaStateFair.com