

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) was established in 1971, and is now one of the largest volunteer organizations in the nation. RSVP engages nearly 500,000 people age 55 and older in a diverse range of volunteer activities.

The RSVP office is located in the Rowland building on the Chanute campus, and is part of the Department of Outreach and Workforce Development. The four county region includes Neosho, Allen, Woodson, and Bourbon counties. RSVP is under Senior Corps, the Corporation of National and Community Service.

What is the purpose of RSVP?

RSVP engages older adults (55+) in volunteer service to help meet the needs of our local community. RSVP encourages these adults to share their lifetime of wisdom, experience, talents, skills and hobbies with community projects and organizations, while providing a high quality experience that will also enrich the lives of the volunteers.

Are there any requirements for RSVP volunteers?

Volunteers must be 55 years of age and older to benefit from the services of RSVP. There are no restrictions based on education, work history, income or experience. All RSVP volunteers must consent and be cleared of a Sex Offender Public Registry (SOPR) check in order to be eligible for membership in the RSVP. Volunteers that are working with seniors and children in an unsupervised setting are mandated to undergo a criminal background check as well. All volunteers are required to report their hours to the RSVP on a monthly basis; however this task is usually assumed by the volunteer station. Several volunteer stations mandate that the volunteers undergo site-specific training and/or a criminal background check prior to commencement of their volunteerism.

What type of commitment is involved? Can I make my own schedule?

A wonderful benefit about volunteering with RSVP is that the commitment is flexible and, allows members to volunteer at their convenience. RSVP volunteers choose how, where and how often they want to serve, and there is no minimum number of hours required (unless the station you choose has specific time/commitment requirements). Volunteers are able to take time off as needed without affecting their status in the program. The RSVP staff will work with you to find a volunteer station that meets your needs and is most suitable for your schedule.

Is there any compensation offered for my volunteerism or travel/ expenses?

At this time, volunteers do not receive any form of compensation for their volunteerism or travel; however several RSVP stations are able to offer the volunteers an in-kind meal during their volunteer service. The RSVP appreciates your volunteerism and dedication to the community, and all RSVP volunteers receive ongoing recognition for their volunteerism by the RSVP and their volunteer stations.

Will I be offered any training?

Volunteers will receive orientation provided by the RSVP prior to placement in their volunteer station. Volunteers will also receive ongoing site-specific orientation and training from their stations as needed.

Am I insured through the RSVP?

RSVP volunteers are eligible for no-cost personal liability, accident and excess automobile liability insurance. This insurance applies when you are performing your assignment as an RSVP volunteer, and while on your way to and from your volunteer station. To be covered under our insurance policy, you must provide the RSVP with an emergency contact/beneficiary.

What are the benefits of joining the RSVP?

Studies show that volunteering helps you live longer and promote a positive outlook on life. When you volunteer, you are not just helping others, you are helping yourself. Some

benefits of RSVP membership include:

- Flexibility: dedicate as much or as little time as you choose
- Supplemental volunteer liability insurance
- Health benefits - research has proven that those who volunteer live longer!
- The opportunity to be a positive role model
- Give back to a cause that is important to you
- Annual recognition luncheon to honor your dedicated service
- Gain new skills and explore your interests
- Develop meaningful relationships
- Personalized, ongoing support from RSVP staff
- The ability to volunteer for a one-time opportunity or special project

How do I become a RSVP volunteer?

Your time and talents are a valuable resource, and we thank you for your interest in sharing them in the community through RSVP. For more information on enrolling in the RSVP, please contact Sandy Haggard at 620-432-0422.

“Like” us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/NCCCRSVP/>

Links: <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/senior-corps/senior-corps-programs/rsvp>

Be The Change You Wish to See...

Join RSVP Today

**Neosho County Community College
NCCC-RSVP**

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