

Park Champs Frequently Asked Questions

I want to volunteer. How do I get started?

- **View** the Parks Champs 2020 Program [volunteer description](#).
- **Create an account in Count-Me-In:** We require each individual to login or create an account on the city of Boulder's [Count-Me-In Volunteer system](#)
- Once you create an account, you will be directed to fill out the application, sign the waiver and complete the online training modules
- Someone will contact you within the week to confirm your registration and park assignment.

Can I volunteer with a friend?

- In alignment with the Phase 1 of "Safer at Home" order and protocols, it is best for individuals to work alone. Members living in the same household can work together, provided all follow the physical and social distancing protocols. We strongly encourage you to wear a face covering whenever you are in our outdoor public spaces as well. As we enter future recovery phases, we may modify our protocols to reflect those changes.

Can families volunteer together and is there an age limit to participate?

- Members of a single family living in the same household can volunteer together but not with other families to limit gathering in groups. There is no age limit for families volunteering together.

Can a family register as one person in the Count-Me-In system?

- Yes. There will be a space to add the number of family members participating on the application as well as in the box provided when recording volunteer hours for each work session at the park.

I am considered to be in a vulnerable group. Can I volunteer?

- If you are sick, we ask that you stay home.
- If you have a compromised system, for your safety, we ask that you wait until Recovery Phase 4 to participate
- Please see the hazards in the volunteer description to determine if you can complete the tasks at hand safely.

Can I volunteer in a park that is not in my neighborhood?

- The hope is to have people volunteer in their neighborhood park to align with state and county recommendations. However, we do realize that some neighborhoods, like Mapleton Hills, might not have a public park within a 1 – 2-mile distance, or your neighborhood park may not have any volunteer positions available, so exceptions can be made.
- There may not be restrooms available for use in parks and facilities, so volunteers need to plan ahead. This is another good reason why volunteering in a park close to home is preferred.

Does the stay at home order affect my ability to volunteer?

- No, volunteers will be able to go to their assigned neighborhood park to complete the work even if stay at home orders are extended. We are assigning people to a park within close proximity to their home to help comply with Stay at Home and Safer at Home orders.

If the location is full, can I be put on a waitlist?

- Yes. When you register for a specific area that is full, you will automatically be placed on the waitlist. You will be called when a position in that location is available.

What kinds of volunteer work will I be doing, and can I do this work at any time?

- Specific tasks like weeding, trash pick-up, debris removal and graffiti location and removal will be available to complete at any time within each week. Volunteers will commit to work independently between 3 – 5 hours per week for three months.

What should I bring to the park when volunteering for my assignment?

- Bring a mask or bandana to cover your nose and mouth
- Bring a personal water bottle that is filled
- Wear clothes that can get dirty. Long pants and closed-toed shoes are required. Bring layers for changing weather.
- Bring a hat, sunglasses and wear sunscreen.

- Bring a pair of work gloves
- Bring personal gardening tools such as rakes, knee pads, pruners and weeders, as these cannot be provided.

Will any tools be provided?

- At this time, we cannot provide any tools due to sanitation requirements after each use; however, if you need tool assistance, please let us know. As we continue to seek donations, some supplies like trash bags and cans of spray paint will be provided.

When and How should I record the volunteer hours that I completed?

- Volunteers can report their completed hours after each completion of work in the park by logging into Count-Me-In Boulder volunteer system. You can record your hours under the “My Opportunities” tab in your Dashboard.

Why can't park staff do these projects?

- The COVID-19 crisis has caused Boulder's Parks and Recreation Department to cut budgets and reduce staffing levels.
- Our goals for this program are to ensure a basic level of maintenance in all our public parks and on the Boulder Creek Corridor while allowing our limited operations staff to focus on more highly technical and skilled work. This program will provide residents with stewardship opportunities while helping to support community and individual mental health, connection and purpose.

What can I do if I am approached by others in the Park who want to talk with me while I am working?

- Respectfully remind them to give you 6' of space.
- They are probably curious about the work you are doing. Do tell them about the program and how to apply.