

Guidelines for Parents of Minor Volunteers:

We at the WW&F pride ourselves on the number of members who started their volunteer careers with us as youngsters - sometimes under 10 years of age!

If your child is interested in joining our volunteer ranks, we will be happy to have them!!

Here are a few things you need to know to make it work.



It's best to begin a child's volunteer experience on our work weekends or other organized work days - not ordinary Saturdays when regular trains are running.

- Train rides to/from the work site are usually incorporated into the work day.
- Organized work days are focused on group volunteer engagement (and performing a task at hand) whereas a train operating day is concentrated on public train operations and self-guided tasks led by experienced volunteers.

There's no need to commit to an entire day - It's fine to stay for a few minutes or a couple of hours.

- However, if the work crew traveled to the jobsite by train, you might have to get creative in planning your escape if you want to leave before the work train returns to Sheepscot Station.
- Let us know you're coming, and we can help you plan.

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We are not able to supervise children who are dropped off - the WW&F is neither camp nor daycare. Minor volunteers must come with a fully-involved parent volunteer (or other engaged adult sponsor) who works alongside the child for the duration of the child's visit.

- The parent is responsible for the safety of the child at all times. While the more experienced crew members will assist in keeping all volunteers safe, the uniqueness of supervising the child is the parent's responsibility.
- Some crew members are more 'kid friendly' than others - based on their own comfort level in ensuring the child has a safe, enjoyable experience. Cab rides and similar treats are completely at the discretion of the engineer and conductor, who may or may not be able to accommodate the child in a safe manner.
- Please (discreetly) inform us if your child has any special needs. We want to be as welcoming and accommodating as possible.

We hope your child will gain experience and responsibility in time.

- The parent's direct supervision might diminish at some point in the future as the child grows in maturity and experience, but plan on being a volunteer yourself for as long as your child is a volunteer. Usually, by the time the child obtains a driver's license, they are also able to conduct themselves safely and independently.
- On-train volunteers require specialized training. This can be accomplished as the child becomes more aware of the dangers of working around heavy equipment and becomes versed in general railroad safety. However, formal positions, such as Trainman, are typically not available to minors.
- Be warned that parents who start out like this generally discover that they love it and never leave our volunteer family!