

Scoggins Middle School

Volunteer guidelines

Introduction

Volunteers have an important and valuable role at Scoggins Middle School, whether volunteering for the school or for the PTA. It does not matter if you volunteer for one hour or one hundred hours over the course of the school year; any help you give is essential in enhancing the education of our students. Some volunteers may assist the teachers with instructional or clerical tasks. Others may help shelve books in the library or work in helping the PTA. Besides supporting the school, your volunteer efforts teach our children the obligation we all have to give some of our precious time to worthwhile causes. We hope you find your volunteer experience to be a rewarding one.

To get the most from your volunteer experience, it is important to be informed. This handbook contains important information about your work at Scoggins Middle School; please take time to read through it. Additional information may be found in the 2008-09 Middle School Student Handbook located at www.friscoisd.org.

How to Be a Successful Volunteer

No matter what kind of volunteer work you do, or for whom you do it, there are some common qualities that will help you be a successful volunteer at Scoggins.

Have an interest in our students

- ✓ Believe that each child can learn and succeed.
- ✓ Accept children of all ages, abilities, backgrounds and personalities.

Support the staff

- ✓ Be respectful of the teachers and staff.
- ✓ Do not publicly question or criticize the teacher or the methods used.
- ✓ Ensure that your interpretation of rules and expectations matches that of the school or classroom.
- ✓ Involve appropriate school personnel when students disobey school or classroom rules; don't take corrective measures into your own hands.

Be committed and dependable

- ✓ Make sure you have the time to serve.
- ✓ Be prompt and reliable; people are counting on you to be there!
- ✓ Set an example for the students by dressing appropriately and demonstrating good citizenship.
- ✓ Let people know if schedule changes prevent you from keeping a commitment.

Maintain confidentiality

- ✓ Ensure that children's work and behavior are held in confidence.
- ✓ Discuss matters relating to a student's behavior and performance only with appropriate school staff members.

Communicate

- ✓ Ask if you are unsure about how equipment works or how your job is supposed to be completed – there are no dumb questions!
- ✓ Don't let small problems turn into big ones.
- ✓ Provide feedback to the appropriate person about volunteer experiences.

RICHARD L. SCOGGINS MIDDLE SCHOOL 2008-2009 VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK (in alphabetical order)

Attendance/Absences

If you are unable to volunteer at your assigned time, please contact the school office at 469-633-5150.

Background Check

Each school year, all adult volunteers must complete DPS background checks through Fisd and be approved before being allowed to volunteer or attend study trips. The criminal background checks are available through the Frisco ISD website: www.friscoisd.org

Confidential Information

Information learned about students while volunteering is considered confidential and is not to be shared. Volunteers who have a concern about a student should talk with the teachers, principal, assistant principal, or counselor.

Dress Code for Volunteers and Adult Visitors

Middle school students are very impressionable. It is important for all adults in the school setting to serve as positive role models by following school rules including the dress code. Please be mindful of appropriate dress while in the school environment.

Field Trips

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips shall be required to ride in transportation provided by the school to and from the event.

If a parent or guardian is attending the field trip as a chaperone he or she is assigned the duty of supervision of students; therefore, he or she may not bring siblings or younger children. *FISD Student Handbook*

All parents in caravan with the buses are requested to follow after the last bus. It is dangerous for the convoying buses to have cars traveling between them. *FISD Department of Transportation Guidelines for Field Trips*

Relationships with Teachers and Staff

- Please be sure the teacher knows when you are coming. It takes time to plan for volunteers and in order to ensure that volunteer time is not wasted. Volunteers may not visit the classroom unannounced.
- Please do not interrupt classroom instruction. It is easy to lose instructional momentum when students are distracted or are waiting during adult conversations.
- Please do not use your volunteer time to speak to teachers or any other staff members about any student. Scheduling an appointment with either your child's teachers or any school staff member allows for a more appropriate opportunity to address any questions or concerns related to your child or to the school.
- Please respect the confidentiality of all information and activities related to school staff, faculty, students, and their families. Stay enthusiastic and positive!
- The work accomplished during your volunteer time at Scoggins is very important to students and teachers. Should you be concerned with any issue that you feel needs to be addressed while you are visiting our campus, you are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the appropriate staff member in order that the issue may be discussed. Discussing the issue with other volunteers while on campus and not addressing the issue with campus staff, creates confusion and misunderstanding for all involved. Appropriate communication to answer any and all volunteer or parent questions is highly encouraged.

Sign-In Procedures

All visitors to the school must sign in and out at the front office and either wear a visitor or volunteer badge while on campus. Visits to observe individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted only with approval of the Principal, Assistant Principal, or Counselor and the teachers. Such visits are not permitted if their duration and/or frequency interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment.

You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

~ Kahil Gibran, 1883-1931 Lebanese Poet & Artist