Volunteer Manual

Vision Statement:
H2O for Life aims to address the global water crisis through engaging and inspiring youth to learn, take action, and become global citizens. Volunteers are integral in our organization to help carry out our mission by taking on projects at our office, helping with event planning, assisting students in the classroom, and by becoming ambassadors for our work.

Organizational Background:

Mission
H2O for Life educates, engages and inspires youth to learn, take action and become global citizens. We provide students with a unique and valuable learning experience through service-learning opportunities focused on the global water crisis.

What We Do
H2O for Life provides a service-learning opportunity for schools, youth groups, and faith based organizations to raise awareness about the water crisis while taking action to provide funds for water, sanitation and hygiene education for a partner school in a developing country.

Our History
In 2007, Patty Hall received a cry for help from a small village in Kenya that was desperate to build a water project. Could she help? She introduced the idea to her school, Highview Middle School in New Brighton MN, to see if they could help raise funds for the project. Staff and students embraced the challenge with open arms. Students learned about the global water crisis and created action plans. It was an amazing and inspirational school year as students organized walks for water, sold wrist bands, note cards, and t-shirts. They also held piano concerts, pizza parties, baby-sitting events and asked family and friends for donations. In the end, Highview Middle School donated $13,000 (twice the amount requested for the project) to Kathungu Village. Today, Kathungu Village has water available year round due to the efforts of Highview Middle School. Highview students and teachers didn’t stop with one project. They wanted to do more. This led Patty and a group of committed parents and teacher volunteers to establish H2O for Life as a non-profit.

Since 2007, H2O for Life and our partner schools have donated almost $2 million to fund water projects in the developing world. We have worked with 282,000 students in the United States, Canada, and the UK to complete over 800 service-learning projects - helping fund more than 450 life-saving water projects in 21 different countries around the world.
Policies and Procedures:

Recruitment
Any person with a passion for youth, education, water, global issues, the environment, or the community is invited to join our team. Volunteers will be recruited through local outreach efforts, our webpage, and through schools and other community partners. We welcome volunteers located anywhere in the country to help with our work!

Application
All volunteers will be required to fill out a short and simple application. The application will serve to provide H2O for Life with contact information and help us best match interested volunteers with opportunities based on their interests and strengths. Upon completing the application, H2O for Life staff will schedule a meeting to discuss positional fit within the organization.

Diversity Policy
Our organization is firmly committed to diversity in all areas of its work. We believe that we have much to learn and profit from diverse cultures and perspectives, and that diversity will make our organization more effective in meeting the needs of our stakeholders. We are committed to developing and maintaining an organization in which differing ideas, abilities, backgrounds and needs are fostered and valued, and where those with diverse backgrounds and experiences are able to participate and contribute.

It is the policy of H2O for Life to provide equal opportunities for volunteers without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, disability, national origin, or any other basis protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.

Supervision, Training, and Support
H2O for Life will provide all training, information, and materials, for volunteers to carry out tasks as part of the organization. A dedicated H2O for Life Staff Member will be available during shifts for questions, guidance, or to clarify the role of the volunteers. H2O for Life Staff will ensure that any volunteer activity is safe. Volunteers reserve the right to refrain from any activity.

Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures
If an incident of inappropriate volunteer conduct should occur, the first step will be a meeting between H2O for Life leadership and the volunteer involved. Future actions may include asking a volunteer to discontinue work with the organization.
School Policy
If volunteers are participating in an activity that includes interacting with students, they will be required to fill out a background check and any other forms required by the School District.