



826 Boston Volunteer FAQ

What do you do here?

826 Boston is a youth writing and publishing organization dedicated to empowering the voices of traditionally underserved students ages 6-18 to support their success in school and in life.

Do I need to be experienced working with youth? Experienced in writing? Publishing?

Nope! Anyone who believes in 826 Boston's mission and is willing to learn can volunteer. We'll work to pair you up with experienced volunteers, provide trainings, and support you in every way we can.

Wow, all of that sounds great! So how can I volunteer?

You should attend one of our [Volunteer Info Sessions](#)! We have them twice a month, and they're open to anyone interested in volunteering. We'll give you an overview of 826 Boston, explain all our different programs, and discuss the many different ways you can get involved.

Do I need to bring anything to the Volunteer Info Sessions?

You'll need to bring a government-issued photo ID, as well as the last 6 digits of your Social Security Number. We'll use this info to run a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check.

Oh no, I don't have a Social Security Number!

Fear not! Just bring your I-20 and your visa to the Volunteer Info Session instead.

I've attended a Volunteer Info Session! What next?

Anyone interested in volunteering directly with our students must now attend a [Tutoring Training](#) (offered weekly)! Check out our [Programs Page](#) to read all about the different tutoring opportunities available. Also, make sure to check your inbox for next steps.

What if I want to be involved in other ways besides tutoring?

At the Volunteer Info Session you'll attend, we'll collect all of your information and start sending you *In Tandem*, our monthly volunteer newsletter where we'll advertise all of our volunteer opportunities. We'll make sure to reach out to you for any event or publishing opportunities, but if you see a need, please don't hesitate to [drop us a line](#)!

Wait, so what's Tutor Training?

826 Boston holds weekly Tutor Trainings for volunteers who'll be working directly with students. We'll discuss tutoring strategies and pedagogy, and collect your information to run background checks. This makes sure the students are only working with tutors with the most up-to-date training, and helps to prepare you for unforeseen challenges. You can check out available dates and register for one [here](#).

I work 9-5 and am busy during field trips and after school tutoring. Can I still volunteer?

Of course! While a good amount of our programming does take place during the hours of 9-5, we have plenty of other options. Some examples are "After After-School Tutoring," 6:30pm-7:30pm once a week, Saturday workshops once a month, book release parties, fundraising, our publishing corps, editorial boards for our book projects, and more! Check out our [Programs Page](#) for more info.



What if I really want to volunteer but my schedule is very busy? Will you need a time commitment?

We'll never force you to commit to a certain number of volunteer hours—everyone is busy, and we totally understand. We always try to meet you where you're at. That said, we'd love for you to give us as much time as you can. Consistency is key for the students who attend our free programming—we want to establish an environment of trust, which takes time on the volunteer's part. The more you provide, the more you help the students. Try to find the time for one session a week and go from there—we'll be here to help along the way.

I've gone to a Volunteer Info Session and a Tutor Training, but my Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check hasn't cleared yet. Do I really need to wait, or can I just start volunteering now?

Unfortunately we have to wait until your CORI check clears before you can work one-on-one with our students. We're excited you want to volunteer, but our #1 priority is their safety.

How can I sign up for a shift?

Check out our Handy Dandy [Volunteer Calendar](#). You can use your mouse to hover over a shift to see how many volunteers we still need, then click and follow the instructions! You'll only be able to sign up if you've completed our Tutoring Training, otherwise you'll receive an error message.

Can I get community service hours by volunteering with 826 Boston?

Potentially. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old, and if you're under 18 years old we'll require two recommendations and your most recent progress support. If you're under 16, feel free to [email us](#) to discuss other options we have available. We're always happy to sign off on your hours if you're willing to put in the work with us and our students.

I'm sick or I've forgotten to tell you about my plans to backpack across the Alps to search for proof of Bigfoot. How can I cancel a volunteer shift?

Please [email us](#) as soon as you can so we have time to find a replacement. Also, good luck with your expedition!

I have a question but it must be infrequent because it doesn't appear in this list. How can I ask?

[Shoot us an email](#) or call us at 617.442.5400.

See you soon!