

Fundraising in Action - Tasks
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Put your group's *Fundraising in Action* by volunteering at Vala's Pumpkin Patch & Apple Orchard. During our fall season, we envision our farm as a place to create magical memories with family and friends. As a volunteer, you are helping put that vision into action. Below is a list of possible tasks that may be assigned to your group once you arrive for your volunteer day(s). You may be assigned to one of these tasks or a variety of other opportunities based on the needs of the location and discretion of the Team Leaders, Supervisors, and Volunteer Coordinators.

For those committing to a location for part of or all of the season:
Apple Picking

Our orchard is now open and ready for harvest! As a volunteer at the orchard, you and your group will be helping our orchard crew by harvesting apples for production. These apples will be placed into large baskets and brought to our Cider Mill for processing into sweet cider and hard cider.

Food Locations

Kettle Corn: Kettle Corn is a guest favorite! Your group can learn to make and bag kettle corn at one of our three locations. This commitment is up to 4 days each week for part of or all of the season. A minimum of 4 volunteers needed and up to 10 volunteers depending on the location assigned and number of volunteers. Training provided.

Slushie Station/Town Square Churros/Howl at the Moon: There are a few smaller locations at Vala's that use a smaller number of people to operate. Your group can commit to running the location for part of or all of the season (up to 4 days a week as needed). A minimum of 4 volunteers needed and up to 10 volunteers depending on the location(s) assigned and number of volunteers. Training provided.

For those committing to 2-3 days of the season:
Food Team Tasks

Bagging Kettle Corn: Help us bag up one of our most popular food items for our guests, Kettle Corn! As a volunteer at one of our three kettle corn making areas, you will help scoop and bag the kettle corn into small or large bags. We go through thousands of bags of kettle corn each season, this is a big help for us!

Serving and Refilling Drinks: Most of our locations have drink options available. Meals have an option to be served with a drink or our guests may use the current year souvenir mug to refill. This is where you come in! As a volunteer, you may be asked to refill and serve fountain drinks to our guests as part of their order. This involves scooping ice, filling cups, and handing them to our guests. Don't forget that smile!

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Dishwashing: Our food locations can be very busy, this is a great thing! Being busy also means the food locations go through a lot of dishes and trays. These trays need to be wiped down using our cleaning and sanitizing cloths and the dishes need to get washed and allowed to air dry. Although this may not be glamorous, you will be the pride and joy of the food location if you are tasked with dishwashing!

Serving Food: In a few of our food locations, volunteers may be assigned to help prepare a food order for our guests. This may involve adding fries to an order, serving a side dish to the guest, or grabbing a slice of pie from the case. Food varies across the farm at each location and serving food may look different depending on which location you are assigned.

Catering: Our guests and large groups have the opportunity to choose our catering team to provide meals at designated campfires, the Pavilion, or Picnic Shelter sites on the farm. These events can range from 10 to over 500 guests. As a volunteer in the catering department, you will help serve food to our guests through buffet lines, prepare and help deliver food buckets for campfires, clean, and wash dishes.

Staff Kitchen: On busy October weekends, we offer our employees the option to have a meal through our staff kitchen. This meal can be from our catering team or sponsored by an outside vendor. Food is delivered to the staff kitchen and served to our employees. As a volunteer at the staff kitchen, you will help the staff kitchen Team Leader serve the food to employees, box up any food taken back to locations for other employees, clean, set up and take down the area.

Attractions

Attractions are placed throughout the farm, from pedal carts and jumping pillows to our Prairie Village play area and Egg Scramble. Safety is a top priority at Vala's and as a volunteer you may be assigned to help at one of our attraction locations. The key is to keep our guests and each other safe.

Pedal Carts: Our pedal carts are a fun attraction for all ages. Families and friends can race around the tracks, steering through gravel, dirt, and mud. They can also get stuck! Some of our younger guests may have trouble making it all the way around the track or they may get stuck in a patch of mud. As a volunteer, you will help our employees guide guests through the track, pushing the younger guests out of the mud or away from the wall, and helping pull the carts to the front for the next guests to enjoy. This can be hard work on a busy day, but a favorite among our volunteers who have tried it - come prepared!

Egg Scramble: The Egg Scramble is a favorite attraction among many of our guests, as you can use air pressure to launch a foam ball across the room. As a volunteer at the Egg Scramble, you will

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help our employees keep our guests and each other safe, pick up foam balls and bag them for our younger guests, and guide our guests in and out of the building.

Big Slide Ride: As a volunteer at the Big Slide Ride, you will help our guests make their way to the top and remind them to grab a burlap sack. You will also hang the burlap sacks along the slide fence for our guests to use. Another task may be line control and guiding guests to either side of the slide.

Pedal Trykes: This is typically an area where no employee is stationed. Guests with young children are able to watch their children, age 5 and under, use the trykes around the small path. As a volunteer you will keep the track clear of debris, assist guests when needed around the path, assist with line control, and keep the guests safe by following posted guidelines.

Apple Blaster Helper: This is a popular attraction where guests pay for a bucket of apples and use them for target practice with large air guns. As a volunteer, the apple blaster helper will help fill buckets of apples, hand buckets to guests after they have made a purchase, and assist in line control and keeping the area clear of debris.

Barnyard Challenge Course Observer: As a volunteer at the Barnyard Challenge Course, you will assist in line control, guest safety, and observing the course for any safety concerns. You will also keep the area clear of debris and assist guests with following the posted guidelines.

Special Events

During the season we will host special events such as the Honeycrisp Apple Festival in September. We may have space open for volunteer groups to help at these special events. Tasks could include set up and tear down, or assisting guests with crafts or projects.

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