

# VOLUNTEER!

(☺ *If ever there were a year to pitch in, this would be the year* ☺)

**Please complete and mail this form with your family's registration.**

Please note that as we are a cooperative church school, everything we do with our children is primarily the result of parents and guardians volunteering their time. Because of this, all parents/guardians who do not teach in the classroom will be scheduled as an adult helper (teacher assistant...just show up and help out) in the classroom approximately six Sundays during the school year. Scheduling is done at random—usually every two months—and parents/guardians may trade dates as needed. Most parents enjoy spending their assigned morning with their children, getting to know their children's class friends, and seeing first-hand what happens in the class on Sunday mornings.

**NAME/S:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I can teach in a *Spirit Play* class (2 more needed in Grade K-1)

These are our Montessori-modeled classes. Extra training is required, but weekly preparation is relatively low (about twenty minutes per week). Spirit Play Teachers teach approximately every-other-Sunday (classes are approximately one hour).

\_\_\_ I can teach in a *Spirit of Adventure* class (3 more needed in Grade 2-3)

Spirit of Adventure is a traditional-curricular modeled program, but the lesson plans are loads of fun with lots of hands-on excitement. Weekly preparation takes 1 ½ hours, though teachers generally teach *once every three Sundays* (classes are approximately one hour).

\_\_\_ I can be a middle school youth group advisor (3 more needed)

These work in a high-energy team to plan and lead Sunday morning activities and occasional weekday activities for the middle school youth group. Curriculum is used sparingly, and most of the group's activities are well-loved traditions that have been developed over the years. These include a ropes/challenge course to build community within the group, winter fundraisers for the group's spring trip, Yule Play set creation, costume-making and participation in the Olympia Procession of the Species, hiding Easter eggs for the younger children, and a weekend trip in the spring (the last two years they have gone to Portland).

\_\_\_ I can be a high school youth group advisor (2 more needed)

These advisors play a similar role as middle school advisors, though the youth are empowered to plan and lead their own activities (usually Sunday evenings), and the advisors work in more of a supporting role. Youth Advisors help youth learn leadership skills. Ideally, youth group activities are balanced between social activities, leadership-building, social action, learning, interaction with both other youth and adults, and youth-style "worship" experiences. High Schoolers select their own advisors from among those who express an interest.

\_\_\_ I can be a substitute teacher

A team of substitute teachers is assembled and provided with materials at the start of the year to fill in as needed as a (check area of interest) \_\_\_Spirit Play teacher, \_\_\_Spirit of Adventure teacher, or \_\_\_Advisor. Substitute teachers are usually contacted at least a week in advance of the teacher absence, often more. However, on a rare occasion they are called early Sunday morning. Substitute teachers may opt out of a substitute opportunity as needed.

-----→**Turn For Non-Teaching/Advising Opportunities**

## \_\_\_ I can serve on the Religious Education Committee.

Interested in the big picture of family ministry at church? The mission of the Religious Education Committee is to lead the congregation in providing our children and youth with the gifts of a Unitarian Universalist Religious home, and a community in which awareness, tolerance, and personal growth in spirituality can be nurtured and developed according to each child's unique nature. Religious Education Committee members meet with the Director of Religious Education (or in this coming year, the temporary part-time administrator) monthly for 1 ½ hours, and each member has a portfolio of involvement in the program with some between-meeting tasks. Tasks vary by the strengths and interests of members of the committee but may include items such as assisting with teacher recruitment or support/cheerleading, coordination of family-focused social activities, review of curriculum, Coming of Age rite-of-passage program preparation, and just about anything else we can dream up. The Religious Education Committee is the vision-holding body of Religious Education ministry for our congregation. Committee members serve two year terms.

## \_\_\_ I can help with gathering and preparing class supplies

Using supply lists, helpers purchase (reimbursable) supplies for classes, pick up and return library books, and organize these supplies for class use. Please indicate whether you can help \_\_weekly, \_\_monthly, or \_\_quarterly, and how many hours you can donate each time you volunteer: \_\_.

## \_\_\_ I can sew and/or do crafty projects to prepare Spirit Play materials.

Our Spirit Play classes require a weekly basket of lesson “manipulatives.” “Manipulative” is the Montessori term for an item that helps a child explore a lesson. In Spirit Play, each lesson is simply a story. Each story has a felt underlay cut into a shape such as a circle, rectangle, or star. The materials for the story can range from a doll-house pot of flowers to a strand of blue beads to a doll-house sized blanket. Occasionally, sewing is necessary to prepare the materials. Often, craft-like preparation is needed. Please indicate interest in either \_\_sewing or \_\_craft-like work. Also please indicate whether you can help \_\_weekly, \_\_monthly, or \_\_quarterly, and how many hours you can donate each time you volunteer: \_\_.

## \_\_\_ I can maintain a database of supplies and needs.

Individuals helping with the database read supply lists located in upcoming lessons and enter supplies required into a database which they create for this purpose. They also inventory supplies at the church, and mark items for which there are enough reserves to cover class needs. The database should be updated every two months from September through May, though if desired, more than one individual can share this task so that it is done in rotation.

## \_\_\_ I can design, create, and update bulletin board displays.

Bulletin boards are one tool to assist with parent and volunteer communication, and to help make classrooms friendly toward our children. Unfortunately, they are not often well-maintained, and some years they go unused. Help us change this trend! After consulting with Religious Education staff and volunteers, bulletin board designers create displays that highlight program announcements and events, show off the student's work and class photographs, and otherwise inform or entertain. Ideally bulletin boards are updated at least seasonally, if not more frequently. If multiple folks volunteer to help, the task can be done as a team, or volunteers can rotate the duty among themselves.

## \_\_\_ I can help out in the classroom more frequently.

As described on the previous page, in our cooperative church school, non-teaching parents/guardians are asked to help in the classroom *approximately* six times during the school year. If you don't want to teach/advise, but are willing to assist in the classroom in this “adult helper” role on a more frequent basis, please check here. (You may be scheduled frequently or called on with a request for substitution.)