

Get Outdoors Day Volunteer Frequently Asked Questions

When and where is the event?

- The event is on Saturday, May 30 from 10am to 3pm at Peavy Arboretum ([located here](#))

What are the volunteer shifts?

- To streamline coordination and orientation, we only have one volunteer shift from 9am to 3pm.

What if I can't work a full shift? Can I still volunteer?

- We will do our best to accommodate your schedule. Contact Matt McPharlin to coordinate (information below)

What will I be doing and where do I show up?

- All volunteers will report to the Peavy Arboretum Lodge to sign in ([located here](#))
- We will email you at least one week before the event with a detailed description of what to expect on the day of the event.
- You will have an orientation when you arrive so you know what you will be doing! Event captains will be located at main stations along the way to answer any questions you may have.

How do I register to volunteer?

Oregon State University now requires all volunteers to register through their volunteer system. This helps keep volunteers and event participants safe and creates a convenient one-stop shop for completing risk and liability forms and background checks.

Because of this update, you'll be working through a **few different forms**. Thanks in advance for your patience and willingness to tackle a bit of extra admin with us. We promise it's worth it, and we're grateful you're here!

Here's what to expect:

Step 1: [Complete this form](#) (*Estimated time: 5 minutes*)

Fill out the form with your information to officially sign up to volunteer for Get Outdoors Day! OSU Research Forest staff use this information to coordinate volunteers and plan for food and supplies.

Step 2: Check your email and register with OSU (*Estimated time: 10-15 minutes*)

After completing Step 1, you'll receive a confirmation email with a link to register for the GO Day event through the official OSU Volunteer Registration system.

This step includes creating an account, signing volunteer and liability waivers, and uploading a photo of a government-issued ID for a background check.

Feeling a little lost at this step? We get it! You can:

- Check out the [step-by-step guide](#)
- Watch the [tutorial video](#)
- Call or email Matt McPharlin (contact info at the end of this document). He's happy to muck through it with you!

Step 3: Sit tight

Background check clearance usually takes a few days.

Step 4: Get the green light

You'll receive an email from Oregon State University confirming you're cleared to volunteer. If you haven't yet responded to the Get Outdoors Day 2026 opportunity in the OSU Volunteer Hub, this is your moment!

Step 5: Celebrate 🎉

You've conquered the paperwork! We can't wait to see you on May 30th—thanks so much for being part of Get Outdoors Day.

I'm under 18. Can I still volunteer?

Yes! You still need to fill out the steps to register to volunteer and have your parent or guardian fill out the OSU registration form with you to sign.

What should I wear and bring?

You will be outside rain or shine (hopefully shine!)

We suggest bringing:

- Comfortable walking shoes and long pants (we'll provide a shirt for you!)
- Sunscreen, hats or rain gear.
- Water bottle, any personal items you need

Do I need to bring a lunch?

- We will provide a sandwich lunch, snacks, and refreshments for all volunteers - because you rock!
- You will also get a snazzy Get Outdoors Day volunteer shirt to keep forever!

I'm feeling confused; I have more questions; I need to change my registration. Who do I contact?

- Contact our volunteer manager extraordinaire and professional cat herder, Matt McPharlin at matt.mcpharlin@oregonstate.edu
- Office: 541-737-6730
- Cell (day of event only please): 831-809-5803