



Watson's Mill Haunt Nights Volunteer Guidelines

Thursday October 22 – Saturday October 24, 2026

Thank you for volunteering for Haunt Nights at Watson's Mill! We are delighted to work with you and hope you will have a great time! Below is an outline of what will be expected of you while volunteering at this event. Please read through the whole document and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Volunteer & Application Requirements

- Volunteers must be high school students and 14+ years of age
- All volunteers must pre-register by sending an email to haunt@watsonsmill.com and filling out a registration form
 - **A volunteer position is not guaranteed unless you pre-register and receive a confirmation email from Watson's Mill.**
- Volunteers can attend 1, 2, or all 3 nights

General Expectations for Haunt Night Volunteers

- Arrive at the Carriage Shed (5524 Dickinson Street) at 5:00 pm on the evenings you have agreed to volunteer, and stay until approximately 10:00 pm
- Arrive in comfortable black clothing, including dark coloured shoes, that you are comfortable with getting dirty. Additional costume pieces will be provided.
 - Dress in layers according to the weather. The Mill is NOT heated, and it can be cool to start and then warm up as the night goes on
- Be respectful of other volunteers, Watson's Mill staff members and visitors
- Be respectful of the site (Watson's Mill and The Carriage Shed) and help keep it clean and tidy

Volunteer Rules

- **Be Safe**
This event involves tight spaces, low lighting, loud noises, lighting effects, and a LOT of people. If at any time you are concerned for your own safety or feel you are being asked to do something you are not comfortable with, stop and contact your floor leader immediately.
- **Be Sensitive**
Some visitors will be nervous entering the Haunt. These guests will be offered a small battery-operated candle to hold while they go through. If you see a guest holding a candle, please tone down the spookiness for that group. If no one has a candle, let loose! But be aware that if someone is genuinely terrified, it is ok to break character and escort them to a safe area at the exits.
- **Do Not Touch the Guests or Other Volunteers**
You may get close to visitors, but you may not physically touch them at any time with any part of your body. Visitors and other volunteers are also not allowed to touch you. Be mindful of your proximity to guests and other volunteers especially when yelling/screaming.
- **Buddy up!**
You will not be assigned a scene or area by yourself, and you should never be alone in your scene.
- **Stay in Your Scene**

At the beginning of the evening, you will be assigned a scene and matching costume. Volunteers are asked to remain in their scene and return promptly after a break. Always inform the other members of your scene before you leave.

- **Stay in Character**

Unless there is a compelling reason (terrified guest, emergency evacuation, etc.), please stay in character while guests are around and try to be quiet when there are no guests in your scene. Overhearing conversations between volunteers can spoil the illusion for visitors

Volunteer Privileges

- You will be provided with free pizza and water in the prep room
 - Volunteers are welcome to bring their own snacks and reusable water bottles
 - Watson's Mill Staff will send out an information email the week before the Haunt noting any major allergies amongst the volunteers. We kindly ask that any snacks/products brought into our space be free of the noted allergens.
- You are welcome and encouraged to add ideas or improvised elements to your scene, as long as they are not dangerous or offensive. Talk to your floor leader to suggest any changes.
 - You can wear your own costume pieces/bring props, but they must be approved by event organizers

Volunteer Hour Forms

- Haunt Night volunteers can earn up to 15 hours towards the required 40 hours of community service to graduate high school
 - Scare actors receive 5 volunteer hours per night
 - Make Up/Costuming Assistants receive 2 volunteer hours per night
 - Volunteers are welcome to be both a scare actor and assist with make-up/costuming; however, these volunteers will still be on-site for the same amount of time and will receive credit for the same 5 hours
- Volunteer Hour log sheets are supplied by each high school or school board and are usually found online at the school/board's website
 - **Watson's Mill WILL NOT search for or print off log sheets for you**
- Volunteer hour forms will be signed at the end of each night. Students volunteering for more than 1 night should only get their form signed on the last night they volunteer

Consequences

Watson's Mill staff members reserve the right to ask any volunteers to leave the Haunt if they do not follow these guidelines or are generally being disruptive or unsafe. In this event, the volunteer's parent/guardian will be contacted, and a staff member will wait with the volunteer in the Carriage Shed until a parent/guardian arrives.

- Watson's Mill is not obligated to sign volunteer hour forms for any partial hours earned by those who have been removed from the Haunt due to safety concerns

Once again, thank you so much for volunteering at Haunt Nights! We can't wait to scare with you!