



Watson's Mill Haunt Nights: Volunteer Guidelines

Thursday October 24 – Saturday October 26, 2024

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 ask if you have any questions or concerns!

Volunteers must be high school students and 14+ years of age.

Haunt Night Volunteer Expectations

- Arrive at 5:00 pm on the evenings you have agreed to volunteer, and stay until approximately 9:45 pm
 - You can volunteer for 1, 2, or all 3 nights
- **All volunteers must pre-register by sending an email to haunt@watsonsmill.com and must fill out a registration form.**
 - **A volunteer position cannot be guaranteed unless you pre-register and receive a confirmation email from Watson's Mill.**
- Arrive in comfortable black clothing (including dark coloured shoes)
- 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. Additional costume pieces will be provided.
- Be respectful of other volunteers, Watson's Mill staff members and visitors
- Be respectful of the site: Watson's Mill and The Carriage Shed
 - Help to keep these areas clean and tidy

Haunt Night 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 of the Haunt noting any major allergies amongst the volunteers. We kindly ask that any snacks 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 with any changes.
 - You can wear your own costume pieces/bring props but they must be approved by event organizers

Haunt Night Volunteer Rules

- **Be Safe.** This event involves tight spaces, very low lighting, 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 an area of safety at the exits.
- **Do not touch the guests.** You may stand close to visitors, but you may not physically touch them at any time, with any part of your body. Visitors are also not allowed to touch you. This also applies to other volunteers.
- **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. You will be assigned a scene at the beginning of the evening, with a matching costume. Some scenes can bleed into one another, but in general we ask that you stay in your assigned scene at all times, and if you need a break please return promptly. Always make sure to 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 no guests are in your scene. Overhearing chit chat between volunteers can spoil the illusion.

Volunteer Hours

- Haunt Night volunteers can earn up to 15 hours towards the required 40 hours of community service to graduate high school
- Volunteer Hour Log Sheets are supplied by each high school/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 Log Sheets will be signed at the end of each night. Students volunteering for more than 1 night should only get their Log 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. Staff members will then wait with the volunteer in the Watson's Mill Office until a parent/guardian arrives.

Watson's Mill is not obligated to sign Volunteer Hour Log Sheets 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!