

Volunteer opportunities at Sioux Falls VA Medical Center

Must be certified as a Regularly Scheduled Volunteer for the following volunteer opportunities:

Direct patient contact opportunities:

1. **My HealtheVet**, assist Veterans who wish to learn to use the My HealtheVet computer program; should have basic computer skills. We have openings Monday-Friday, both mornings and afternoons.
2. **Red Coat Ambassador**-Provide a standard first impression to Veterans, caregivers and families. Consists of greeting, providing information and directions. Escort Veterans in wheelchairs and other individuals to their destinations. Assist Veterans with the kiosks. Assist in keeping the front desk and waiting room areas clean. This position involves walking longer distances and pushing wheelchairs.
3. **New! Community Living Center (CLC) Volunteer**-assist in passing waters and snacks, help with stocking supplies, assist with pushing Veterans in wheelchairs to and from the dining room and play games or provide companionship to Veterans.
4. **Patient escort**- transport wheelchair patients to clinic appointments and deliver items between services within the medical center. Positions available between 8 am and 3 pm. For runners, it involves a lot of walking and pushing of wheelchairs and carts. For telephone operators, it's sedentary and involves recording the escort requests.
5. **Long distance driver**- transport Veterans to the Minneapolis and Omaha VA's and other locations a distance from Sioux Falls.
6. **Coffee Host/Hostess**- Provide coffee service to veterans. Morning openings as needed.
7. **Lab Volunteer**- Help Veterans sign-in at the lab. Morning openings as needed.

Recreation Therapy sponsored activities:

1. **Recreation Therapy activities**- including pet therapy visitation, assist with Veteran outings, adaptive sporting events, provide entertainment, gardening, in-room visitation, current events card club and table games.
2. **Updated! Bingo Assistant**- assist in bingo set-up, escorting Veterans to and from bingo, help Veterans with playing their cards as needed, serve refreshments and call bingo numbers. Available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2pm-3:30pm and the 2nd and 4th Saturday each month from 2pm-3:30pm.
3. **New! Game Assistant**- assist in setting up games, escorting Veterans to/from games, play cards with Veterans. Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:30 am -10am and M, W, F afternoons from 2pm-3:30 pm.
4. **Snoezelen Cart**- transport the cart to a patient's rooms who is interested in relaxing sounds and sights. Some training is required. Available Mondays to Fridays from 8am to 4:30pm.
5. **Updated! Craft Kit Volunteer**- distribute craft kits to Veterans and assist them with completion. Available Thursdays and Fridays from 10:30-11:30 am and Thursdays and Fridays from 3-4pm.
6. **Patient visitation**- afternoons, early evenings, weekends, visit inpatients on the CLC wards who get few visitors, read the paper, play table games, watch TV with them.

D. Rehabilitation:

1. **Physical Therapy**- assist staff with patient exercises in the rehab department, wipe equipment and transport patients back to their wards.

E. Other:

1. **Nutrition and Food Service**- fold towels and aprons, wrap dinner rolls and silverware. Opportunities Mondays thru Fridays for 2-3 hours in the morning.
2. **Patriot Café** -wipe down tables in the cafeteria, stock condiments, assist in getting customer trays to the tables.

3. **Pharmacy**- give filled prescription packages to patients at the window and assist in labeling bottles, etc.

F. Occasional Volunteer opportunities: (certification not necessary)

1. **Veterans' Day**- assist in pushing wheelchair Veterans at Washington High School for the program at 10:30.
2. **Assist at the Chaplains Service of Remembrance**-by making coffee, setting up the food table and serving refreshments. This is quarterly for about 2 hours.
3. **Provide entertainment** in patient dining room, music, magic, etc.

For more information, call 605-333-6851 or e-mail kristin.hendrickson@va.gov. Or call 605-333-6806 or e-mail raymond.vail@va.gov. Many positions have additional duties that can be discussed during interviews.

Individuals accepted into the Voluntary Services program as a regularly scheduled volunteer must pass fingerprinting background check, have current TB test and flu shot on file, and complete New Volunteer Orientation prior to beginning volunteer status.

Individuals interested in volunteer driver programs, in addition to the above, must pass background checks on driving record and a physical examination performed at this facility.

5/2/18