Ongoing Volunteer FAQ

How do I volunteer on an ongoing basis?

Please fill out the volunteer application form and send your resume to volunteer@sus.org. Volunteer engagement staff will reach out to you with the subsequent steps within 10 days. See below for the application process timeline.

What volunteer opportunities are open at S:US currently?

Check out our Idealist volunteer page! If there are any other skills that you would like to share that are not listed, please reach out to volunteer@sus.org to see how your skills can meet our programs' needs.

How much time do I need to give?

Time commitment requirements are dependent on the type of volunteer position. The frequency of service (weekly, biweekly, or monthly) is determined by a program's needs and volunteers' availability.

For teaching positions, volunteers should be available for a minimum of two hours per shift. Classes are generally an hour long, with about thirty minutes of preparation before and clean up after the class. Other roles, such as administrative, Urban Farms, or Peer Partners/Community Companions, may require a minimum of 4 hours per shift.

What does the application process look like? (Timeline)

It may take 4-10 weeks before you can start volunteering.

Position Research

Check out open positions on our Idealist volunteer page. We are always adding new volunteer opportunities, so please feel free to continue your application even if you don't currently see a position that feels like the right fit.

Volunteer Application

Basic information about you, your interests in volunteering, and two references are requested. On average, it takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. After submitting your application, send your resume to volunteer@sus.org.

Interview

The interview is usually held online on Microsoft Teams. It may take between 30 to 45 minutes.

If you did not apply for a specific open position, our team will try to find a placement which will delay the following steps by 1-2 weeks.

Onboarding

Within 3-7 days, the Human Resources Talent Acquisition (HR TA) team will reach out to you with paperwork for a background check, education check, fingerprinting appointment, reference check, and employment verification. Prompt submission of all paperwork completely allows the TA team to send it to the relevant city and state agencies. Feel free to reach out to your volunteer coordinator or your TA representative if you have any

questions about onboarding. It will take 2-4 weeks for the relevant city and state agencies to provide clearance for you to start volunteering with us.

Orientation visit

You, the volunteer coordination staff, and the program staff will meet at the program location to discuss the expectations and responsibilities, your schedule, and tour the program space. Volunteer coordination staff will also give you orientation that includes the S:US mission, code of conduct, and safety training. This may take between 1 to 2 hours.

I've submitted my application and/or expressed interest but haven't heard back from S:US. What should I do?

You should have heard back from us within 10 days. If you are still waiting to hear back, please email us as we value all our volunteers and are excited to hear more about your volunteer interest.

What does onboarding look like?

Onboarding can take between 4-6 weeks. It involves a background check, education check, fingerprinting appointment, reference check, and employment verification. The length of onboarding is dependent on your availability and urgency to complete the process and the legal requirements of a program as required by city and state government agencies.

We require all ongoing volunteers to undergo onboarding because they interact with confidential information or work directly with people served. To ensure the safety of our people served and their personal information, we treat volunteers in the same respect as employees at S:US.

Do I need to provide references in my volunteer application?

We require two references to serve as character witnesses. They can be anyone who can speak reliably about you, such as a classmate, supervisor, neighbor, friend, or professor.

Will I be paid?

You will not receive financial compensation for your time spent volunteering at S:US. If you are interested in paid positions at S:US, please check out our open job positions.