

Ronald McDonald House
Charities of Western Washington & Alaska

Volunteer Guidelines

The Ronald McDonald House is truly a home-away-from-home for the families of children undergoing treatment for cancer or other serious illnesses. Since each family and medical situation is different, please follow these guidelines while you are volunteering at the House:

- When you arrive, you will need to check in at the front desk. All group volunteers must completely fill out a group form sheet. All members of the group need to sign in on the group form sheet and put on a nametag. At the end of the evening, the lead needs to sign out.
- Hands should be washed or alcohol hand gel used immediately upon arrival at the House and frequently while you are here. After using alcohol gel three to four times, please wash your hands with soap and water.
- Avoid wearing perfume and using harsh chemicals with projects/activities as there may be children with chemical sensitivities.
- Children in your group must be at least 13 years of age and have had chickenpox or been vaccinated for chickenpox.
- Anyone with symptoms of illness should stay home. Symptoms of illness include: sore throat, runny nose, watery eyes, fever, chills, unexplained rash, general aches, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.
- Anyone who has recently been exposed to chicken pox, measles, shingles, TB, hepatitis or E Coli may not be inside the House or interact with residents.
- Anyone with an open cut, wound or sore that is red, puffy or draining should stay home. All clean cuts need to be covered with a Band-Aid.
- Obtain parental permission before physical interaction with the children. Remember the children are undergoing treatment and their immune systems may be compromised. Please remember to be gentle.
- No volunteers are permitted to be alone with a child at any time; no one is permitted to go to a family's room, visit a family in the hospital, or take them out for a meal or socialize outside the House.
- Babysitting is not permitted. It is important to keep good boundaries and limit your relationship to the event you are hosting for the House.
- You are welcome to take photos of group members while at the House. **However, we must ask that you do not take photos of children, parents and other family members who are staying at the House.**

Thank you from all of us at the Ronald McDonald House!