



Big Country Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc. Volunteer Policy

The following guidelines are designed for the safety and well-being of all volunteers and visitors at BCWRC Failure to abide by these policies may result in dismissal.

- Volunteers are expected to contribute a minimum of two hours each month and to attend volunteer meetings when held.
- Volunteers are expected to put their names on the schedule and show up when they are scheduled. Work with wildlife is labor intensive. All work is for the benefit of animals, including cleaning, maintenance, laundry, etc. Some duties require work outdoors.
- Depending on the season, outdoor duties will expose volunteers to hot or cold weather. Please arrive for all scheduled shifts on time and be ready to help. If you cannot make your shift due to illness or other circumstances, please give as much notice as possible so a replacement can be found in a timely manner. This is especially true in spring and summer.
- Be courteous to the Center's visitors, staff and volunteers at all times. Treat them with respect while talking on the phone or in person, even in difficult circumstances. Dress for volunteers is casual (jeans, shorts in summer, tee shirts are acceptable) good sturdy shoes; flip flops and flimsy sandals are never permitted for safety reasons. Keep exposed skin to a minimum. No ripped or torn clothing. Please, no tee shirts with controversial or political messages. Please wear clean, casual, appropriate attire (nice jeans, slacks, shirts, blouses, etc.), to fundraisers, educational programs, and other events that represent the Center. Violators of the dress code policy will be asked to return home to change.
- Do not bring others with you when you are scheduled to work. Children may not be brought to the Center with a volunteer. Respect other volunteers and their property.
- Please be quiet and remember that animals are at the Wildlife Center for care. Do not wear perfume, scented lotions. Aside from consideration for the animals, many people have allergies to strong scents, and what is pleasant to one person may be offensive to someone else.
- No radios in the animal care areas. Please keep cell phones on vibrate. If you must talk on your cell phone during your shift, do so outdoors and away from our animals.
- **Absolutely no photos can be taken of the animals in our rescue and no pictures of our animals will be posted on social media.**
- Wear earth tone clothes...no bright neon colors, gaudy accessories. Try to blend in with a quiet, tranquil environment that will help our captive animals recuperate.
- All requests for educational programs should be referred to Jennifer. Volunteers interested in helping with educational programs should contact Jennifer. **BCWRC is not open to the public**, but if a visitor arrives, take them to one of our regular staff members or volunteers. Sometimes people just "show up" but they may be bringing a donation or an offering to help in some way.
- Volunteers may not use the Wildlife Center's phone or computer for personal use. Personal calls must be limited to 2-3 minutes. Volunteers will answer the telephone with "Wildlife Center, this is (your name), how can I help you?"
- No volunteer will handle or clean cages of rabies vector species, including the fox, bobcat, raccoon, skunk or bat unless they get rabies shots (at their own expense) and maintain regular boosters and/or titers (Every 5 years).
- **Volunteers will not gossip or undermine each other's efforts. They will also keep matters concerning the Wildlife Center in confidence. Volunteers must realize that difficult decisions are made regarding euthanasia, care or release of some animals and experienced volunteers will make those decisions.**
- There is to be no smoking on the property or in any of the buildings.

Remember, the Wildlife Center is not open to the public, and the animals need their privacy for recuperation. Have fun and love what you do!