

About La Rabida

The only hospital of its kind in Chicago, La Rabida Children's Hospital provides primary and specialty care to children with medically complex, lifelong conditions regardless of the family's financial circumstances.

Services and programs include treatment for chronic conditions like diabetes and sickle cell disease, as well as care for developmental disabilities like cerebral palsy and Down syndrome. In addition, La Rabida specializes in the treatment of children who are dependent on technology, those in need of rehabilitative services, and who have experienced trauma.

Under one roof, La Rabida offers access to board-certified pediatricians and specialty physicians, advance practice nurses, physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, dieticians, social workers and mental health professionals. All have dedicated their careers to pediatric health care and are committed to our philosophy of a holistic, interdisciplinary team approach.

The hospital's mission to enable children to reach their highest potential has been unwavering since 1896. La Rabida provides and coordinates care, support and education for patients inside and out of the hospital, so kids can focus on one thing: being kids.



Individuals interested in becoming a volunteer must meet the following requirements:

Our Student Program

- Is open to high school students ages 16-18
- Students must make a minimum commitment of two hours per week for 20 weeks during the school year or four hours per week for 10 weeks during the summer (for a total of 40 hours).

Our Adult Program

- Is open to college students and adults at least 18 years of age
- Adult volunteers must be willing to make a commitment of two hours per week for one year.

Additional Requirements for all Volunteers

- Completion of an application for volunteer service
- Interview with the volunteer manager
- Submission of a letter of recommendation
- Completion of background checks and a health screening
- Completion of volunteer orientation and appropriate on-the-job training
- An annual flu vaccine is required

To Learn More

To receive more information about volunteering at La Rabida, including the initial application, contact Judi Blakemore, Manager of Volunteer Services, at 773.256.5985 or at jblakemore@larabida.org. Or, visit our web site: larabida.org.

La Rabida Children's Hospital

6501 S. Promontory Drive
Chicago, IL 60649

For general inquiries, call: 773.363.6700.

Volunteer at La Rabida

and Make a Difference in a Child's Life



LA RABIDA
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Give your time, energy and love to the children who come to La Rabida Children's Hospital for care.

Volunteers fill many special roles at La Rabida and are an important part of the safe, nurturing environment we offer patients.



The love and support that our volunteers give to our children are "just what the doctor ordered." Volunteer opportunities are available days, evenings and weekends. We will match your availability and interests to one of the following volunteer roles:

Ambulatory Services

Volunteers in Ambulatory Services provide support to patients, families and staff in our Acute Care Clinic. Escorting patients to x-ray, running labs and preparing exam rooms are just a few of the duties performed by these volunteers.

Child Life/Night Life

Volunteers assist Child Life staff with activities for the children, including arts and crafts, story times, recreation and the school program. They may work in our Children's Pavilion or at the child's bedside.

Feeder-Rocker

These volunteers are specially trained to feed infants, toddlers and others who are not self-feeders. Feeder-rockers work one-on-one with assigned patients who require prolonged feedings or who have other

feeding difficulties. They encourage patients to finish their meals and may facilitate group dining experiences.

Information Desk

Volunteers welcome patients, families and visitors, give directions, answer telephones, and escort patients among other duties. Volunteers at the Information Desk may provide the first contact our patients, families and visitors have with La Rabida.



Literacy

Literacy Program volunteers are part of a hospital-wide effort to encourage reading and a love of books in our children. These volunteers read to our children in the outpatient waiting areas and also work with siblings and accompanying family members in an effort to encourage reading at home.

Nursing

Nursing volunteers work with patients in our inpatient unit. They offer reading, puzzles and other play activities to our children. They provide supervision and socialization during meal times and may help facilitate group dining experiences. Nursing volunteers also help the children with daily



living activities. Providing one-on-one attention and visiting children at the bedside are important parts of a nursing volunteer's duties.

Tutoring

La Rabida's tutors provide one-on-one help with school work and reading to an assigned child at weekly tutoring sessions. Tutors should have a desire to improve the educational experience while serving as a role model for the children in the tutoring program.

