



Essential Capabilities of Volunteers

There are several volunteer opportunities within Project Chimps (PC), some of which are fulfilled by volunteers who work with chimpanzees. To safely and effectively serve as a volunteer at PC, volunteers need to possess the following physical, mental, and emotional capacities. Your signature on this form indicates you believe you possess these basic capabilities, with your written acknowledgement of any limitations. Please note: some accommodations can be made and will be taken into consideration relative to role placement.

Essential Physical Capabilities

- Quick reflexes and ability to use both hands simultaneously.
- High level of manual dexterity to handle small tools.
- Ability to walk unaided on unpaved, uneven, rugged and sometimes muddy and slippery terrain.
- Ability to bend and squat in order to pick up containers.
- Ability to stand for significant periods of time.
- Average vision (with or without correction) to move safely around PC, to be able to observe chimpanzee body language without difficulty, and to be able to read notes on chimpanzees' paperwork.
- Average sense of smell and touch in order to assess body condition of chimpanzees, and to note signs of illness or injury.
- Ability to hear if chimpanzee is making sounds indicating fear or pain.
- Ability to speak and effectively communicate in English verbally as well as in written form.
- Ability to maneuver well in tight spaces and react and move quickly.
- Must not have strong allergies to chemicals used in grooming or cleaning, or to chimpanzees in our care that can't be managed by medication.
- Ability to deal with strong and unpleasant odors, fleas, feces and possible wounds or injuries to chimpanzees in our care.
- Ability to cope with a very loud environment due to chimpanzee noises.
- Ability to judge a chimpanzee's reaction and to change voice to a soft or strong tone in order to change a chimpanzee's response.
- Ability to reach cabinets and caging at least six feet in height, using a step stool as needed.
- Ability to push carts and barrels of laundry; load and unload washer and dryer; fold clean laundry and put away, reaching shelves from ground level up to six feet, using a step stool as needed.
- Ability to operate blender and microwave; retrieve items from standard upright or chest model refrigerator/freezer.
- Ability to wash dishes and put away in cabinets and drawers from ground level up to eight feet in height with use of step stool as needed.
- No known concerns about tolerating exposure to zoonotic diseases such as upper respiratory infections.
- Ability to obtain and tolerate required TB tests, Hepatitis A, B, C vaccines and annual flu shots (for assisting in areas of chimpanzee care).

Essential Mental Capabilities

- Ability to understand, remember and follow instructions and procedures.
- Ability to differentiate the needs of and adjust working mannerisms around each individual chimpanzee.
- High level reading, writing, spelling and communication skills (example: understand words such as quarantine, euthanize and other common industry-related terms), and a mastery of the English language.

- Possess problem-solving capability.
- Ability to observe and evaluate response to stimuli (such as new foods, enrichment, etc.), as well as health and behavioral problems that are revealed during observation sessions.
- Ability to be aware of potentially dangerous situations when working with the chimpanzees; ability to remain calm with chimpanzees who are upset, behave sensitively and confidently, show good judgment and act appropriately in these situations.
- Once trained, must be able to work with minimal supervision, yet must recognize limitations in knowledge and abilities, and ask for help when needed.
- Ability to work independently for long periods of time, as well as work within a team atmosphere with other volunteers or staff.

Essential Emotional Capabilities

- Ability to cope with unexpected chimpanzee behavior without assistance.
- Ability to cope with the presence of injured or abused chimpanzees in need.
- Ability to cope with a highly emotionally-charged environment with some chimpanzees that exhibit traumatic behaviors, as well as the reality that some of the chimpanzees in our care may be humanely euthanized when their quality of life has deteriorated to the degree that no additional assistance can be offered to alleviate suffering.
- Ability to understand The Humane Society of the United States’ (HSUS) policies and positions regarding animal welfare issues and an ability and willingness to appropriately and accurately represent those policies when interacting with the public or otherwise representing The HSUS.

Please indicate any reasonable accommodation(s) you may need in order to meet the essential capabilities of your volunteer position at PC:

Applicant: Printed Name	Handwritten Signature	Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent or <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian (if under 18): Printed Name	Handwritten Signature	Date