

When volunteering an event with schoolchildren

General points

Participating in an activity with elementary-, middle-, or high-school students should be an enjoyable and educational experience for you. It should also be a valuable experience for the children you work with. Remember that you will be viewed as a responsible adult, an authority figure or even a role model. Act accordingly.

Before volunteering to participate, be sure you can be present for the entire time. The very beginning and very end of most activities are the busiest times.

Before leaving for the event

Verify the time and date of the event, directions, and parking instructions. Make sure you know whether you are expected early to help set up.

It's always a good idea to have your CCSU Blue Chip card with you. You should have a pencil or pen. Your instructor will inform you if you need to bring anything else.

Attire

Please consider that you are representing CCSU, the Technology Education Department, and yourself when select your clothing. Also consider the type of event. Will you be outside? If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

Obviously, clothing promoting tobacco, alcohol, weapons, and the like, are inappropriate. Hats and sunglasses should not be worn inside school buildings. Male student need not wear ties.

Interacting with the children

You should feel comfortable being friendly with the students. However, don't discuss your personal life or theirs. Again, be professional.

Photographs

If you are going to take pictures for your portfolio, be courteous and ask the classroom teacher or your instructor beforehand. As a general principle, your portfolio should contain pictures of you working with children. However, never post pictures of identifiable children on the internet or in any public place unless you have parental permission.