

WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER

Baby Bird Feeding FAQ's

HOW OLD DO I HAVE TO BE TO FEED BABY BIRDS?

You can be 12 or 13 years old, but must be with an adult or parent.

14 years of age and older can volunteer to feed baby birds without an adult or parent.

ARE CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE ALLOWED TO VOLUNTEER?

No, since baby birds require special care to survive in rehabilitation setting. For that reason, as well as examples you will see during orientation, we must adhere to the age guidelines.

CAN I LEAVE MY 12 OR 13 YEAR OLD AT THE CENTER, IF OTHER ADULTS OR TEENAGERS ARE WORKING IN THE BABY BIRD NURSERY?

No, 12 and 13 years olds must be supervised by their parent/guardian. Even after several weeks of participation, the child/parent team must continue to volunteer together. For liability reasons, as well as to provide adequate supervision, the Center must require this rule.

ARE THE ADULTS OF A 12 OR 13 YEAR OLD REQUIRED TO ACTIVELY VOLUNTEER WITH THEIR CHILDREN, OR CAN THEY JUST SUPERVISE?

Adults of 12 and 13 year olds will be actively volunteering with their children. It's a team approach to caring for the baby birds. Many of the tasks related to the care of the birds are best assisted by an adult, when the age of the volunteer is 12 and 13. These tasks will be explained in more detail at the orientation class.

CAN ADULTS VOLUNTEER TO FEED BABY BIRDS?

Yes, many adults and seniors find feeding baby birds to be a very rewarding experience. Also, many parents and grandparents find that feeding and caring for baby birds can be a great bonding experience, in addition to learning about animals and nature.

WHERE IS WILDLIFE IN NEED LOCATED?

Our current location is W340 S2383 Hwy C, Oconomowoc, WI 53066. We are south of Delafield on Hwy C one mile south of Hwy 18. In June we will be moving to our NEW BUILDING at W349 S1480 S. Waterville Rd, Oconomowoc, WI 53066. We will be approximately 1/2 mile south of Hwy 18 on Waterville Rd at the UW-W's Field Station property.

WHERE IS THE BRANDYBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER LOCATED?

WINC holds orientation classes at the Brandybrook Community Center on the north side of Hwy. 18, 1.8 miles east of the Hwy. 18 and 83. S11 W 29980 Summit Ave, Waukesha, WI 53188

VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT

Baby bird feeders are asked to commit to one 4.5 hour shift a week, for twelve weeks.

Basically, from the time school is out in spring, until school begins in late summer. Some bird feeders will start volunteering before their school session ends and continue into fall, until the last baby bird has fledged! WINC is open seven days a week (also holidays).

WHAT TIME(S) ARE THE VOLUNTEER SHIFTS:

Shift times are: 8:30 to 1:00 p.m.

1:00 to 5:30 p.m.

5:30 to 9:00 p.m.

WE'VE PLANNED A VACATION, OR SOMETHING UNEXPECTED COMES UP AND I HAVE TO MISS MY SCHEDULED VOLUNTEER SHIFT/DAY. WHAT DO I DO

We know that families plan vacations for the summer months and so we will work with you to have your shift covered when you are gone. Vacation requests should be submitted two weeks in advance or sooner. If you are sick, or an unexpected situation arises that doesn't allow you to volunteer on your scheduled shift, we ask that you call in to the Center. Please speak to someone in our office, or leave a message on the answering machine. Arrangements can also be made for you to volunteer on another day.

WHAT TYPE OF WORK WILL I BE DOING?

Baby birds require feeding every 30 or 60 minutes depending on their age. You are the bird's parent and will be moving from cage to cage feeding singles, or groups of birds. In addition to feeding birds, you will be preparing their diets, handling and cleaning the birds as needed, cleaning their cages, making new nests and recording your feeding times on a daily timesheet. You must be patient, pay attention to details, and be able to read and understand specific directions.

WHAT TYPE OF CLOTHING SHOULD I WEAR?

Our volunteers are on their feet for most of the day, so comfortable shoes are a must! No sandals or clogs. Shoes must be closed-toed. Clothing should be comfortable and something you don't mind getting dirty. Shorts in summer are O.K. Belly shirts are not ok.

CAN I WALK AROUND THE CLINIC/GROUNDS AND LOOK AT THE OTHER ANIMALS?

Baby bird feeders under the age of 18 are restricted to the first floor level of the clinic. The exception being when having to use the restroom on the second floor. Why? Many mammals are kept on the second floor and in the outside cages. We require that individuals must be over 18 to work with mammals. Also for liability reasons, the Center cannot have minors in other areas of the facility. Keep in mind, we are a rehabilitation center, and that our patients are sick, injured or orphaned wild animals. It is for your safety that we make this rule.

For more information about the Wildlife in Need Center, its mission and purpose log on to www.helpingwildlife.org, or call (262)968-5075.