

YMCA BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

Volunteer Information Form



Branch: Click to Select	Volunteer Demographics (Reported in aggregate to YMCA of the USA)	
First Name: _____ MI: _____	Gender: Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/>	T-shirt size: _____
Last Name: _____	Race / Ethnicity: Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/>	
Address: _____	Other <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-racial <input type="checkbox"/>	
Apt.#: _____	Age: Under 30 years old <input type="checkbox"/> 55-64 years old <input type="checkbox"/>	
City: _____	30-54 years old <input type="checkbox"/> 65+ years old <input type="checkbox"/>	
State: _____ Zip Code: _____	Home Phone: _____	
E-Mail: _____		
Work Phone: _____	Organization/Company: _____	

Are you a YMCA member? Yes No

May We Photograph You?

Yes, I hereby give the right and unrestricted permission and release, discharge and agree to hold harmless from any liability the YMCA of Greater Richmond, and all persons and corporations acting with its permission or for whom it is acting, to take, copyright, use and publish photographs, video and/or audio recordings of or concerning me for any purpose the YMCA of Greater Richmond deems desirable. Pictures of volunteers with children participating in YMCA Bright Beginnings shopping trips are provided to volunteers and participants for individual use only. Reproduction of volunteer/participant photographs or unauthorized print publication or electronic posting or sharing is strictly prohibited.

No, I do not wish to be photographed.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

STAFF USE ONLY

Shopping Information: **Date 1:** _____ **Store 1:** _____

Date 2: _____ **Store 2:** _____

THANK YOU FOR BEING A YMCA BRIGHT BEGINNINGS VOLUNTEER!

The YMCA of Greater Richmond believes that children who have the necessities they need to succeed in school can focus on learning rather than worrying about having shoes to wear on the playground and crayons to color their assignments. Children are invited to apply for the program through a local Y and eligibility is based on financial need. Ensuring that the children and volunteers have a safe and enjoyable experience is the top priority for staff. The information below is provided to give you an idea of what to expect during the shopping trip and to answer some frequently asked questions.

The Process

- You must complete the volunteer information form and return it to your Y's volunteer coordinator by the date specified.
- **At the store:**
 - Please arrive at the specified time and be prepared to stay and interact with your child until the children board the bus at the end of the evening, approximately 2 ½ hours.
 - Follow the signage to the employee break room for check-in.
 - You will need to show a photo ID if shopping with a child.
 - After a brief orientation, you will be paired with a child and will help him/her shop for \$100 in school clothes.
 - For children in grades K-5 this includes shoes, socks, underwear and a warm sweater or jacket, if available.
 - Middle school students also spend \$100 on school clothes, but have more flexibility to purchase items they want and need while learning to budget their funds.
 - You will share a meal and take a picture with your buddy. You both receive a copy of the picture at the end of the trip.
 - For everyone's safety, be aware of the following child safety rules:
 - Children and volunteers are never to be alone (more details provided during orientation).
 - Your child must be within your sight and sound supervision at all times.
 - You may not have personal contact with the child outside of the shopping trip. Ask a Y staff member about ways to stay in touch if you are interested.
- **Be ready to have fun.**
 - 96% of volunteers surveyed said they are likely to recommend the program to a friend!

Frequently Asked Questions

- **How old do you have to be to volunteer?** Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age to shop with a child. Volunteers age 13 and older may help with non-shopping activities.
- **May I bring my children under 13 with me?** No. While the Y believes that families are important in building strong communities, a big part of the YMCA Bright Beginnings experience is the opportunity for a child to have one-on-one time with a caring adult volunteer.
 - If you are interested in a family experience, consider becoming Backpack Buddies! You and your child choose and fill a backpack that will be given to one of the children on a shopping trip. You may pick up a supply list from your local Y or use the one on our website, www.ymcarichmond.org/brightbeginnings.
- **Who pays for the clothes?** A generous gift from Altria Client Services, Inc. leads a sponsorship of donations from community members, businesses and civic organizations. We hope to raise \$380,000 this year to help 2,200 children.
- **What about school supplies?** Each student will receive a backpack filled with grade-appropriate school supplies before or after the trip.
- **If I go over my \$100 limit, may I pay the extra amount?** No. In order to ensure that all 2,200 children in the program have the same experience, you and your child will have to make decisions that will keep you within your budget!
- **What are ways that my company or group can help?** YMCA Bright Beginnings serves as many children as funding allows. Your company or group can sponsor a trip or start a backpack and/or school supply drive. Fundraising and backpack drives make great team projects! Call Katie Gholson 804.474.4322 or the YMCA Bright Beginnings coordinator at your local Y to learn more.