



Seacoast Warming Shelter West Ashley 2021-2022

FAQs

***If you have questions after reading this FAQ sheet, please email nicholejohnson@seacoast.org.**

Can anyone volunteer to SERVE at the Warming Shelter?

- Anyone 14 years of age or older who has watched the Welcome & Training video, and turned in all required forms may volunteer.
- Minors must be accompanied by an adult.
- Overnight shifts require a background check.

Can children who are accompanied by a parent volunteer at the Warming Shelter?

Yes! Individuals 14 years of age or older that have watched the online Welcome & Training video and are accompanied by an adult are permitted to volunteer at the Warming Shelter. To find other 'family friendly' serve opportunities, visit www.seacoast.org/missions and click on Local Missions.

How do I sign up to SERVE at the Seacoast Warming Shelter?

Click on this link and sign-up for the dates and times you wish to SERVE at the Seacoast Warming Shelter: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/seacoastwarmingshelter>

When is the Warming Shelter open and what does it mean to be on-call for a shift?

- Timeframe: December 2nd through March 15th
- When: The shelter will open from 7 pm until 7 am when the temperature falls below 35 degrees. Determinations will be made by the City of Charleston 48hrs in advance.
- All shifts are “on-call”, which means that if the outdoor temperature is higher than 35 degrees, you will be notified that you will not be serving. Should your shift be canceled, we encourage you to sign up for a different date. FYI, you may serve as often as you are available. Consistency is a wonderful thing for our guests.

Can I sign up my Small Group or does each individual need to register online?

We ask that each individual sign up for the date and shift of their preference. This helps us gather individual contact information and other details that will be needed for communication. Lastly, when the city officially declares the shelter open due to pending weather, we will utilize everyone's contact information to notify them that their shift is a go!

Can I volunteer more than one shift on the same day?

Absolutely but we ask that you sign up for each shift. This is a wonderful opportunity to sign up if you have a block of time available to serve.

Do I need prior volunteer experience?

Compassion for your neighbors is the greatest pre-requisite. Prior experience volunteering is not a requirement. We request that you watch the online training at your convenience. This will help you prepare for your volunteer experience. Please reach out to our team and we will answer any additional questions you may have.

What should I wear while volunteering at the Seacoast Warming Shelter?

Comfortable, casual clothing such as pants or blue jeans is recommended. Please avoid wearing shirts or outerwear that have graphic designs or slogans.

What can I bring with me?

Your mask, in addition to small personal items such as a mobile phone, car keys, or pocket wallet is permissible. Please leave purses and backpacks at home or secure them out of sight in your locked vehicle. To protect the dignity of our homeless neighbors, we ask that you refrain from taking photos of them in any capacity.

Where will I park when I volunteer?

There is ample lighted parking in the back of the Seacoast West Ashley Campus. City of Charleston police officers will be on-site as well as patrolling the parking lot and surrounding area while the Warming Shelter is in operation.

Please lock your vehicle and remove or secure valuables as you would while parking in any public location.

What is the mask requirement?

Many of our neighbors experiencing homelessness will not be vaccinated and therefore volunteers are encouraged to wear masks, but not required. We ask that volunteers bring their own mask. Guests of the shelter will be provided with masks when they complete their wellness screening during registration.

Will wellness checks be performed?

Yes. Guests and volunteers will be screened upon arrival. MUSC will be onsite performing rapid Covid testing on guests before entering the shelter when available. MUSC will also be offering vaccines to guests who are interested.

May I bring gifts or donations to the Warming Shelter?

Please do not bring any gifts or donations that have not been pre-approved by Seacoast West's Local Missions Coordinator Becky Lind (beckylind@seacoast.org). Personal donations of money, clothing, or assistance are not permitted at the Seacoast Warming Shelter.