

VOLUNTEERING WITH WATERFIRE

Opportunities in your Community



WaterFire Providence® is an independent, non-profit arts organization whose mission is to inspire Providence and its visitors by revitalizing the urban experience, fostering community engagement, and creatively transforming the city by presenting WaterFire for all to enjoy.

Volunteering with WaterFire is truly a one of a kind experience that invites you to not only get involved in the creation of WaterFire, but to be part of the art itself.

A volunteer driven event from the very beginning, WaterFire is able to come to life due to individuals throughout the community and from all walks of life. In that way, WaterFire's very soul is a reflection of the community that makes it possible.

You will find that constructing WaterFire requires a wide range of needs and skills. Whether you enjoy engaging in conversations with others, getting your hands dirty on new projects, or you are just looking to try something new, WaterFire surely has a way for you to get involved!

Contact the WaterFire Volunteer Department to learn more!

(401) 273-9727 | Volunteer@waterfire.org

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

WATERFIRE EVENT DAYS

OPPORTUNITIES *on SHORE*

Morning & Afternoon

8a through sunset

Station Setups: Along the shores of Waterplace Park, visitors can find a number of volunteer-run stations offering donation opportunities, WaterFire merchandise, special performances, and ancillary installations. Volunteers helping with these setups should expect a healthy amount of walking and light lifting and can also expect to work as part of a small team or pair. Daytime visitors to the park will often engage said volunteers in conversation about the evening to come- so, some background on WaterFire is helpful, which we will provide you with.



Reception & Stage Setup: Some WaterFire events boast special performances and reception areas throughout the park along with its surrounding areas. WaterFire staff and volunteers work cooperatively to construct tented reception areas as well as large and small stages. Tasks include hanging draperies, setting up tables and chairs, setting up lighting, decorating with floral arrangements, candles, lanterns, etc. Each respective area will host a small group of volunteers throughout the event day in order to host performers and guests that evening.

Starry, Starry Night: Visitors to WaterFire can “wish upon a star” all their own at this magical installation in Memorial Park where large blue paper star lanterns are nestled in the treetops of this dark and dreamy grove. Volunteers are needed to help welcome visitors, assist in hanging stars, and placing Luminaria lanterns where they are needed. This is a quiet, yet busy location; volunteers can expect frequent interactions with visitors.



Luminaria: Anyone visiting WaterFire is asked to “add [their] light to the night” by lighting a Luminaria lantern. These elegant paper bag lanterns are a compliment to the bonfires on the river, as they bring beauty and light to the dark, lesser-noticed corners of the park. With each lantern, visitors make a dedication or special note. Often times, this note is in memory of a loved one or in celebration.

In addition, a pedestrian bridge overlooking Waterplace Basin are flanked by towering arches of blue paper star lanterns as an echo from *Starry, Starry Night* in Memorial Park. Volunteers stand watch on this bridge, welcoming visitors who pass through and engage them in conversation about their WaterFire experience. Complementing the stars, again, echoing the Memorial Park installation, Luminaria lanterns dot the bridge and surrounding landscape; visitors are encouraged to light a lantern as they pass through.



Ambassadors of Light: A very fun, social opportunity for volunteers who enjoy interacting with the public and helping others. *Ambassadors of Light* are the hosts and hostesses of WaterFire, greeting visitors warmly and engaging in conversation about their travels and experience at WaterFire. Volunteers working this station kindly request donations from visitors with which they interact (money accepted goes directly into the station’s donation receptacle). The “Ribbons of Light” are glowing blue necklaces that visitors wear to show their support for WaterFire Providence’s mission of creatively

transforming our city. In perspective, the necklaces are their own installation of artwork as a visual symbol of community solidarity and hope for a more beautiful, united Providence. (Volunteers working a *RoL* station should be comfortable with moderate to busy crowds.)

Special Ops: At WaterFire, we are always striving to do something a bit different in order to create highlight moments for the season. Our Special Ops teams make those moments possible. It can be as basic as a torch ceremony through the crowd, handing out items to visitors, or providing for crowd control for the movement of open flame. It can also be as large as helping to light a Ring of Fire with 100 torches encircling the Basin or dropping event favors from a rooftop onto the crowd below. It’s always new, exciting; fast paced, and brings a signature quality to each and every event.



Brazier Society Reception: Nicknamed the “box seats” of WaterFire, the Brazier Society reception is a hub for who’s-who of Providence’s elite. The catered, open-bar reception is to be a haven for Brazier Society members from busy, noisy crowds- offering a warm, friendly environment in which to soak in the glowing ambiance. Volunteers assist in managing this reception by welcoming guests, promoting interesting and desirable raffle prizes, managing the schedule of coveted boat rides, and assuring this exclusive experience is one to be remembered. Brazier Society members are significant supporters of

local arts and WaterFire. Volunteers working within this reception should be aware of the great potential of our guests, and present WaterFire in the warmest light.



Strike: WaterFire’s “set” is constructed starting at 6:00 each event day morning; and what goes up on an event day, must come down in the very same day. The “Strike” team of volunteers assists with the breakdown of WaterFire at the conclusion of every event. Volunteers join forces with WaterFire staff to disassemble receptions and electrical setups, haul trash, park boats, and other important details. This task is not complete until the last truck leaves the park, and sometimes ends as late as 4:30AM the following morning. Volunteers are not required to stay for the entirety of this shift, but, many hands make light work! Any help offered for this challenge is greatly appreciated.

ROLES *on the RIVER*

Notice! Persons under the age of 18 are unable to participate in boat activities due to insurance restrictions.

Morning & Afternoon

8AM through sunset



Brazier Building: Help construct the braziers that will set the city alight at sunset. This task is for physically active persons who enjoy working within a team and are comfortable working on the river for approximately three hours. Learn to make fire fuses, construct bonfires correctly, and participate in firewood reload to help prepare for the evening’s events.

River Cleanup: As the tide rises and falls, natural debris and litter accumulate in the installation areas and need to be cleared before nightfall. Any braziers that topple from low tide must be rebuilt, and docks must be prepared to host crews and more boats. This task is best completed by a small group; a fulfilling job for people who aim to improve our environment and beautify our community.



Evening

Sunset to midnight



Fire Tenders: Perhaps the most watched volunteers of all, Fire Tenders are not only doing a task – they are performers. Boat crews led by Captains and First Mates are responsible for maintaining bonfires and keeping pace with the overall performance. Duties require placing logs onto braziers to rekindle fires, re-loading firewood into the boat from under bridges, and working with fellow crew to uphold the artistic integrity of the installation. This is a quiet performance, symbolizing the affect and influence of a community when individuals work together.

Additional Volunteer Activities



Woodpile Workouts: Every fire, WaterFire burns thousands of logs to feed the flames of the event. Wood boats magically disappear underneath bridges and reappear with a boat full of logs restocked from a bay underneath. With our events often in rapid succession during the season, we need the help of our volunteers to attend “Woodpile Workouts” to keep up in restocking these bays underneath the city’s bridges. Typically on the Wednesdays and Saturdays in-between lightings, volunteers

load and take a woodboat out into the river to reload the bays. Bayed wood is also dry wood, keeping our fires burning brightly during the events.

Prep Parties: WaterFire has many moving parts and special projects that help to make every event a little different than the last. To help bring that individual touch to each event, often times we need the help of our volunteers assisting us at our production space in preparing materials. Tasks include easy projects like preparing critical fuse material that light WaterFire to projects that require some problem solving and special skill sets such as boat building and molding. Staff is always on hand to help you learn a new skill, and most projects can be completed by any and all that are willing!



Trainings: With the many special events and signature moments WaterFire puts on, often times leading up to particularly complex special event, we will ask volunteers to come to a training for performance and safety reasons. All are welcome to participate and learn something new!

Special Projects: As we are always trying something new and exploring new ways of doing things, we often involve our volunteers in special projects. These projects can occur at the WaterFire office, at home, or at our production space!

