

Volunteer Handbook 2026

Our Attitude of Gratitude: Thank you for volunteering for the Kerrville Folk Festival. To get the most out of your volunteer experience, please take a few moments to read these pages. All volunteer staff benefit from knowing the following information.

Kerrville Folk Festival Foundation members deeply appreciate your time and commitment. In addition to making our festival run smoothly and making many new friends, volunteers are also offered festival gratuities to reward quality service and encourage volunteer staff retention.

ALL Volunteers Receive:

- Non-vetted volunteers get free admission and tent camping.
- Breakfast and dinner at our amazing staff kitchen.
- A staff shirt from this event (as long as you RSVPed ahead of time)

- Discounted electricity: \$3 off/per day
- Discounted ice: \$2/bag
- Free coffee, tea, and gatorade
- \$1 sodas
- \$2 off beer
- Electric 110 amp/no AC \$7/day
 - With AC is \$12
 - 30 amp is \$19

What about vetted volunteers?

- All of the above
- One time check in at Staff Central for your bracelet. You will need to come weekly (on Thursday) to re-up your ice tickets.
- One free bag of ice per day
- One half price guest per week (Days 1-8, 9-15, 16-18)

What about our amazing leads?

- All of the above for vets with the exception of guests
- One free guest per week (Days 1-8, 9-15, 16-18) NOTE: there is no half price in addition to the full price guest.
- Free stake for Settlement Day.
- Electricity is 110 amp/no AC \$5/day
 - With AC \$10
 - 30 amp is \$17

Expectations

As a member of the Kerrville Folk Festival volunteer staff, you represent the festival on and off duty. You are expected to be respectful of volunteer staff, ticket holders and Quiet Valley Ranch. Because the time and work you donate makes the festival happen, it is important that you contribute as you are best able. We try to match your skills and interests to your volunteer assignment. *No matter what volunteer job you are doing, it is part of providing a memorable experience for our family.* Please take your role seriously and do everything you can to contribute.

Staff Central is your central location for most volunteer needs including daily check in for wristbands and staff shirts. Staff Central is located across from the Office. Park in the parking lot and walk back to Staff Central/VIP to check in. Please make sure you have your valid ID card with you the first time you check in to Staff Central. If you need help locating your crew leader for assignment, ask the folks at Staff Central for help.

Volunteer Work Times and Assignments

- Festival volunteers are responsible for knowing their work-shift schedule (see designated crew leader for details), showing up on time, and being ready to work at the designated time.
- A “shift” is generally considered as 4 hours of assigned volunteer work. However, all crews have different shift starting and ending times, and some have different shift lengths. Some crews actively run 24 hours a day with several different shift-time options, while others have set schedules, as determined by the crew leader. The frequency of earned days-off is determined by the crew leader and the Volunteer Coordinators based on crew and festival needs and capacities. All volunteers are generally expected to perform work on all days that they attend the festival as a volunteer. The only exception is if you are granted a day off. If you have checked in for the day and fail to appear for your shifts or duties you will be required to buy a ticket before re-entry. You might also be removed from staff.
- Volunteers are expected to attend crew and Volunteer Staff meetings while attending the festival, unless otherwise working.

Work-Day Minimums:

“3 to Break-In”: To volunteer at a festival, a volunteer must be able to work a minimum of 3 consecutive days the first time they arrive (or the equivalent hours, at the discretion of the assigned crew leader).

“2 to Come Back”: Volunteers who have already “broken in” (see “3 to Break-In”, above), and then leave the festival for a number of days, are welcome to return again as volunteers on

subsequent festival weeks and/or weekends as long as they are willing to volunteer for at least 2 consecutive days upon returning (including at least 2 consecutive days per weekend), and so long as they meet the other volunteer work requirements listed within this section.

- While the festival Volunteer Coordinators do their very best to place and maintain volunteers on their crew of choice, individual volunteer crew assignments are subject to the capacities and work needs of a festival, and because of this, placement on preferred crews cannot be guaranteed. In some cases, a volunteer's assigned crew may change during a festival based upon those needs.

If you need anything related to your volunteer job, communicate with your crew

leaders. *Let them know if your schedule changes and you have to leave early or can stay longer. Approval by current crew leader and a Staff Coordinator is required to switch*

crews. There is zero tolerance for illicit drug use by any volunteer staff member, and zero tolerance for the use of alcohol by any volunteer while on duty or operating a vehicle. For the safety of our family, sexual harassment and racial discrimination will not be tolerated.

Inappropriate behavior or violation of expectations will result in removal from the Volunteer Staff and, if necessary, from the ranch. If you are removed from staff, you may not be guested in and you may not participate as a vendor staff/helper. YOU MUST BUY A TICKET TO REMAIN. If the incident is severe and you are asked to leave the festival grounds a committee will review all incident reports and will determine what you must do to get back in good standing.

Life Inside the Campgrounds

Life in the campgrounds is magical. It takes all of us to make it that way. Many of us have made lifelong memories and friends here. We share this home together. It is in the campground that our singer-songwriter festival truly comes to life. Here are a few tips to help you get the most from your time at Quiet Valley Ranch:

All vehicles entering the campground pass through MixMaster. When doing so, the driver is presented with 3 options: Purchase a refundable *load-in permit*, purchase a *campground parking permit*, or purchase a *sleeper vehicle permit*.

1. A *load-in permit* is purchased at \$40 and is good for 2 hours and, if used for less than 2 hours, is fully refundable. If a driver purchases a load-in permit and leaves his/her vehicle on the campground longer than 2 hours, the vehicle is subject to towing without warning. This rule will be strictly enforced.

2. A *campground parking permit* is \$40 per day per vehicle. A permit can be purchased for multiple days, provided they are consecutive days. When purchased, the date through which the permit is good, will be written onto the permit.

3. A *sleeper vehicle permit* is a flat fee of \$40 for vehicles 18' and under. Vehicles over 18' are \$50 as long as the vehicle remains on the campground. If the vehicle leaves the

campground, an additional fee is charged for EACH re-entry. A sleeper vehicle is defined as a vehicle such as a van with enough open space for a bed, a pickup with a camper shell, an RV, a pop-up trailer, or travel trailer that is used for sleeping in lieu of a tent. If the sleeper vehicle is towed by a passenger vehicle, only the sleeper vehicle qualifies for the permit; the driver will need to either purchase a load-in permit or a campground parking permit in addition to the sleeper vehicle permit for the tow vehicle in order for the tow vehicle to remain within the campgrounds.

The campground speed limit is 5 mph. Once you arrive at Quiet Valley Ranch, no canned music or other artificially amplified sounds, please! Drums cannot be played until the Day 18 Volunteer Staff party.

“Pack It In, Pack It Out!” Aside from small trash and recycling items, if you bring it on the ranch, please take it home with you. This includes camping equipment. Be considerate of your campground neighbors. Take care of one another. Pick up your rubbish and leave no cigarette butts behind.

The Kerrtry Store is open 8am-8pm on Kennedy performance nights and is open 8am-Midnight on Threadgill performance nights. The Kerrtry Store sells cups, soda, tea, coffee, beer, and ice. Because we don't offer disposable cups, you'll need to bring your own or purchase one at the Kerrtry Store or the Kennedy Theatre Beverage Vendors. Drink lots of water and wash your cup often. There is no smoking under any kind of building roof.

When no burn band is in place, properly contained and monitored fires are allowed. Be smart about any open flame or potential fire hazard and notify safety if needed. There are fire buckets with water and a burlap bag provided behind the campground showers for anyone wanting to have a fire. You must have one, with water, at your campsite in order to have a fire.

Other Tips

- Kidsville is next to Kerrtry Store. It is a dynamic and safe place for you to play with your kids; it is NOT a place for you to leave your kids.
- The Kerrtesy Cart is our campground Mobility Cart and parking lot shuttle service.
- Ranch Central (the "Pumpkin Shack"), just inside the campground entrance serves as Lost & Found. Its volunteers can also provide a wealth of information about the festival and campgrounds.
- During the week, food can be purchased from food trucks located near Threadgill.
- Staff Showers are located in the campground and backstage. They are open 24 hours. There are also showers in the campground, including non-gendered private showers.
- No pets allowed. This policy includes any animal that is not a harnessed and vested canine that is not trained to perform a specific task to assist an owner with a disability, in accordance with Texas Law. If you bring a service animal it needs to be vetted by safety upon your arrival.

- There is no camping on Chapel Hill.
- Playing music is well received at all times. No recorded or amplified music (or other amplified noise) is allowed within the campgrounds. Being loud and obnoxious is not tolerated. Be conscious of your neighbors and choose a campsite that's right for you.



Policy Reminders, Clarifications, and Additions *All Volunteer Staff are responsible for knowing and following the policies below.*

Expectations of Volunteer Staff Guests Crew Leaders receive a 1 free guest at a time per fest. Who you choose to "guest in" is important and subject to approval. (Individuals may be exempt based on previous behavior.) You are responsible for selecting people who will have a good time and respect our family. Make sure you are bringing a guest that is there to help you as a crew leader to feel supported! Guests must be over 18 to camp and over 21 to drink alcohol.

Supervision and Curfew of Minors There is a midnight curfew for anyone under 18 -- they must remain in their campsite between 12am and 8am. ***At check in, anyone camping with a child under 18 for whom they are not a legal guardian must provide to Staff Central a "Consent to Medical" form (available at www.kerrstaff.org). It must be signed by a legal guardian AND notarized prior to arrival.*** In addition, children 11 and younger are strongly encouraged to visit "Tag-A-Child" near the campground entrance to the main stage to register.

Vetted Volunteer Bands Previously called "Veteran Bands", Crew Leaders recommend volunteers to Volunteer Staff Coordinators for approval as "Vetted Volunteers". These "Vets" receive a wristband allowing them to check in only once during fest. Vetted Volunteers are nominated at Crew Leader discretion, ideally have attended at least 2 "big folks", and have consistently been a role model for fellow crew members and other volunteers. Volunteers must be nominated and approved each year – status does not transfer from festival to festival. Volunteers can lose "vetted" status for issues including but not limited to not RSVPing and inappropriate behavior (including security issues) for a "vetted" volunteer.

Removal from Festival Volunteer Staff Volunteers removed from staff due to safety, behavioral, or other issues are ineligible to use any festival provided volunteer gratuities. This includes being "gusted in" by a current Crew Leader, working for a vendor and any other incentives reserved for Volunteer Staff members. If the individual is still eligible to be on the Ranch and/or attend the festival, they may purchase a ticket.

Ranch/Festival Vehicle Driver Background Checks The KFFF reserves the right to require background checks for individuals working Kidsville, Tag-A-Child, First Aid, QC, or drivers of festival or ranch issued vehicles. Individuals working these crews or positions will need to complete a background check form.

Ranch Vehicle Curfew All festival use vehicles must be parked from 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. on main stage nights and from 12:00 midnight to 7:00 a.m. on non-main stage nights. Vehicles may be parked at Ranch Central or other secured locations. This includes trucks, gators, golf carts, etc. Exceptions include: First Aid, Security, Volunteer Staff Coordinators, and Maintenance. Other exceptions may be made on a case by case basis by communicating with Volunteer Staff Coordinators. Any cart found to be in use during curfew hours will be required to be checked in and parked nightly at Ranch Central for the remainder of the festival.

2025 COVID and Health Protocol

About COVID Protocol: COVID vaccination is **not** required for volunteers, paid staff or ticket buyers for KFF 2024. There will be a 'Love My Space' wristband for Folks who prefer not to be approached, hugged, touched, etc., and we ask that everyone help get the word out about this system and promote honoring it. The 'Love My Space' wristbands will be available at Tickets, The Office, VIP, Staff Central and Mix Master. So if you would like one, inquire at check-in and let others know of the option. We ask that all volunteers keep a mask on your person at all times outside of camps and especially while on duty. Volunteers on crews that will have close contact with the public may be required to wear a mask while on shift and frequently clean their hands by washing or sanitizing, regardless of vaccination status. Sanitation stations will be located around the ranch, and everyone attending is encouraged to maintain rigorous hygiene. Our sanitation crew will be on overdrive. We are all asked to be mindful of CDC guidelines. We ask that you not join us if you are feeling ill or if you have been in close contact with anyone who has COVID or any other contagious illness without a 14 day self-quarantine or waiting 8 days and receiving a negative COVID test result. We also ask that if you begin feeling ill during the fest, you return home and not return without a 14 day self-quarantine or waiting 8 days and receiving a negative COVID test result. To help prevent any potential and unnecessary spread of bad kinds of sicknesses, if you or your volunteers become ill and/or test positive for COVID after participating in fest, please inform anyone you've been in close contact with and/or let us know so that we can inform them and they can make the most proactive decisions for their health and the health of others. Anyone who comes in close contact with a person who has COVID 14 days prior to or during fest will be asked to leave the ranch and not return without a 14 day self-quarantine or waiting 8 days and receiving a negative test result. We appreciate your cooperation as we strive to provide a festival that is as safe as possible for our festival family and the local Kerrville Community.