



## **WILDLIFE IN NEED CENTER**

### ***Baby Bird Feeding FAQ's***

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

If you are 12-14 years old, you can volunteer in this program, but must volunteer with an adult such as a parent or grandparent. If you are 15 years of age and older, you can volunteer to feed baby birds without an adult.

#### **ARE CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE ALLOWED TO VOLUNTEER?**

No. Baby birds require special care to survive in a rehabilitation setting that involves a level of manual dexterity and a length and quality of concentration. Experience has shown us that 12 is a good age level for these skills.

#### **CAN I LEAVE MY 12, 13 OR 14 YEAR OLD AT THE CENTER, IF OTHER ADULTS OR TEENAGERS ARE WORKING IN THE BABY BIRD NURSERY?**

No, volunteers 14 and under must be supervised by their parent/guardian. The child/adult team must volunteer together for the summer season. For liability reasons, as well as to provide adequate supervision, this is a requirement for this program.

#### **ARE THE ADULTS OF 12-14 YEAR OLDS REQUIRED TO ACTIVELY VOLUNTEER WITH THEIR CHILDREN, OR CAN THEY JUST SUPERVISE?**

Adults 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 12-14. 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. Bird watchers don't often get to observe the quantities and species of native infant songbirds that you can work with in the Avian Nursery at WINC. Also, many parents and grandparents find that feeding and caring for baby birds with their student volunteer can be a great bonding experience.

#### **WHERE IS WILDLIFE IN NEED LOCATED?**

Our location is W349 S1480 S. Waterville Rd, Suite B, Oconomowoc, WI 53066. We are approximately 1/2 mile south of Hwy 18 on Waterville Rd at the UW-Waukesha's Field Station property. If you get to the bike trail you've gone too far.

## **VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT**

Baby bird feeders are asked to commit to one 4.5 hour shift a week for eight to twelve weeks. Basically, from the time school is out in spring until school begins in fall. Some bird feeders will start volunteering on weekends or evenings 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. seven days a week

## **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. Whenever possible, vacation requests should be submitted at least two weeks in advance so we can plan coverage. 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 at 262-965-3090. 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 to 60 minutes depending on their age. You are the bird's parent and will be moving from cage to cage feeding singles, or full nests 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 shift, 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. Clothing should not be revealing or inappropriate. Shorts in summer are O.K and shirts should cover your abdomen and chest. You need to be adequately covered so that you are safe around the animals and equipment.

## **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 baby bird room. Why? Many mammals, adult birds, reptiles and amphibians are kept in clinic rooms and the outdoor cages. We require that individuals must be over 18 to work with other patients than baby birds. Also for liability reasons, the Center cannot have minors in other areas of the facility. Keep in mind, we are a rehabilitation hospital, and that our patients are sick, injured or orphaned wild animals. It is for your safety and for the safety of our wildlife patients that we make this rule.

For more information about the Wildlife in Need Center and our mission, please log on to [www.helpingwildlife.org](http://www.helpingwildlife.org), or call (262) 965-3090.