

Volunteer Guidelines and Principles

The guidelines and principles for volunteers of Florida Conservation Voters and its programs, including Chispa Florida and Democracy For All Florida.

Our Mission

At Florida Conservation Voters (FCV), our mission is to build political power to protect our environment, protect our democracy, and create a healthy and sustainable future for everyone. We do this by educating and organizing people to take action, holding elected officials accountable, winning elections, and advancing just environmental policies.

Racial and Economic Justice Are Central to Our Mission

FCV's commitment to racial and economic justice is crucial for building both the short-term and long-term social, economic, and political power necessary to protect our land, water, and climate from further degradation and to ensure that all people—in particular, communities of color who bear the brunt of environmental harms—have access to the political process by which these critical decisions are made.

We Are Inclusive, Collaborative, and Transparent

We seek to understand each other, our members, our partners, and community members while always challenging each other to learn, especially when necessary to dismantle racism and other forms of oppression. We meet people where they're at, and we share information in a way that is usable by community members.

We lift each other up by fostering and encouraging a caring and supportive environment where each person can learn, create their best work, and achieve their potential. We value each person's strengths, talents, and contributions. We invest in and support one another, we share leadership, and we seek input from others before jumping into action because how we get things done is as important as what we achieve.

We are open, clear, direct, and honest in our communications. We prioritize language justice and reader accessibility among the communities that call Florida home by providing materials in Español and Krèyol as much as possible. We build trust by sharing how and why we make decisions, naming and respecting personal and professional boundaries, and erring on the side of sharing information and resources with each other and with our partners. We nurture trust with Black, Latino, low-wealth, and other communities disproportionately harmed by pollution and the disruption of natural systems by respecting, trusting, and centering their leadership.

Definition of a Volunteer

Volunteers make achieving our mission and vision possible. You are considered a volunteer if you, without compensation or expectation of compensation beyond reimbursement for volunteer-related expenses, perform a service at the direction of and on behalf of Florida Conservation Voters. We include all volunteers who are subscribed to our emails on an email list used to send notifications about opportunities to volunteer. FCV is inclusive and welcomes adults, youth, and families to volunteer with our programs and does not discriminate against any volunteer within our membership based on race, class, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

FCV has adopted youth safety policies and procedures to facilitate a safe and nurturing environment for youth participating in our programs and events.

Participation Guidelines and Expectations

Volunteers of Florida Conservation Voters and any of its programs, including Chispa Florida and Democracy For All Florida, are expected to uphold our organizational values of inclusiveness, collaboration, and transparency and our commitment to racial and economic justice. As a volunteer, you can expect respect, inclusivity, transparency, and collaboration. Volunteers are also expected to treat their fellow volunteers, FCV staff, our members, and the public with those same guiding principles. We value safe places to work and engage. Any volunteer who fails to center these principles while collaborating with FCV will not be allowed to continue in their capacity. Where we can, we will try to lower barriers to accessing volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Recognition

We could not achieve our mission and vision without you. As a volunteer, you are an essential part of our program operations. Therefore, we believe it is important to recognize the time and effort you put into your service. Volunteer recognitions are shared on an as-needed basis through our organization's newsletter or social media platforms. The recognized volunteer will be notified of a recognition post before its publication.

Ending Volunteer Service

You are free to end your volunteer service with Florida Conservation Voters at any time by requesting that you be removed from our volunteer membership list. Such requests can be made to the organizer in charge of the program or event for which you are volunteering. If you are unsure who the best point of contact is, you can submit your request by emailing volunteer@fcvoters.org.

We truly appreciate your willingness to volunteer with Florida Conservation Voters and our programs, Chispa Florida and Democracy For All Florida! We're glad to have you with us.