

Application for Volunteer Work at Wat Lao Buddhovath, Buddhist Temple in Smithfield, Rhode Island

Please read thoroughly before applying.

- Purpose
- List of duties (Individual/Daily)
 - Morning Shift Duties
 - Afternoon Shift Duties
 - Evening Shift Duties
- List of duties (Large Event Days - requires at least 2 to 3 hours of your time)
 - Prior to Monthly Event
 - Day(s) of Monthly Event
 - Breakdown/Cleanup after Event
- Minors
- Merit made/Blessing Reception
- Yearly cookout for volunteers

PURPOSE:

The purpose of volunteering your time is special because of its meritorious nature. Because of this, it is considered *Dāna* (donation). You already have work to do at your own jobs, homes and social circles, so this extra that can be provided here at this Buddhist temple is much appreciated.

Because Wat Lao Buddhovath provides spiritual guidance for the Smithfield community and the Tri-State community at-large, any work done here can be seen as “community service”.

Those who are obligated to do “community service” please see [section X](#).

With the quiet nature of this semi-rural Buddhist temple, many people can achieve a sense of calm, peace, and accomplishment while performing these kind acts, whether it be by helping the monks maintain the temple grounds, helping the Laotian community expand the temple grounds with new structures and eco-friendly technology, helping to prepare meals or bring meals for the monks who only eat during the periods of sun-rise to high-noon (*they (Bhikkhus Only) are also forbidden to make their own meals unless there is a famine*), or even helping to teach the community certain crafts & skills.

So may your deeds lead you to a more fulfilled life, full of prosperity and happiness. Many blessings from the *Saṅgha* at Wat Lao Buddhovath, Buddhist Temple in Smithfield Rhode Island.

LIST OF DUTIES (Individual/Daily):

Morning (8am - 12 noon) :

- Preparing and serving breakfast or lunch for the monks
- Leading or guiding the lay community in merit reception
- Leading or guiding the lay community in requesting *Dhamma* Talks (Dharma Lessons)
- Cleaning *Sālā* the Main Hall's kitchen counters and floors
- Vacuuming the rugs of main hall and large shrine room
- Refilling *Yārd Nām* aka “water-wish” bottles
- Cleaning up bathrooms of Main Hall
- Litter pick-up (must be willing to wear PPE such as nitrile gloves, face mask, and safety vests)
- Lawn mowing, raking, shoveling of snow, tree limb disposal, weed-whacking*, leaf-blowing*, Seated lawn mowing*, snow-blower*, snow-plow* are all **seasonal tasks**.
 - All tasks marked with (*) require prior experience with mechanical equipment such as but not limited to (mixing of fuel, trouble-shooting, on-the-field maintenance) AND apply to use these tools. Any mechanical issues that cannot be resolved should be immediately reported so that our mechanics can service them.

Afternoon (12 noon - 4pm) :

- Sweeping open-air common walkways

- Cleaning *Sālā* the Main Hall's kitchen counters and floors
- Vacuuming the rugs of main hall and large shrine room
- Taking out trash
- Cleaning up bathrooms of Main Hall
- Litter pick-up (must be willing to wear PPE such as nitrile gloves, face mask, and safety vests)
- Lawn mowing, raking, shoveling of snow, tree limb disposal, weed-whacking*, leaf-blowing*, Seated lawn mowing*, snow-blower*, snow-plow* are all **seasonal tasks**.
 - All tasks marked with (*) require prior experience with mechanical equipment such as but not limited to (mixing of fuel, trouble-shooting, on-the-field maintenance) AND apply to use these tools. Any mechanical issues that cannot be resolved should be immediately reported so that our mechanics can service them.

Evening (4pm - 730pm) :

- Providing evening refreshments for the monks (decaffeinated tea, pressed fruit drinks (no pulp), smoothies, or just plain water)
- Cleaning *Sālā* the Main Hall's kitchen counters and floors
- Vacuuming the rugs of main hall and large shrine room
- Taking out trash
- Cleaning up bathrooms of Main Hall
- Cleaning *Khuti* Monks' Residence - (Special Permission is required / Board Members present)
- Security/Perimeter check (any oddities are to be reported to **PERSON X** however, if you may be of imminent danger, dial 911).
- Closing the gates

LIST OF DUTIES (Large Monthly Events):

Prior to Monthly Event

- Preparing Gift Shop items (done one week prior to monthly event)
- Setting up the area where event will be held
- Setting up special structures
- Setting up any decorations
- Putting up rain/shade tents
- Taking out trash
- Preparing specialty foods with the community
- Lawn mowing, raking, shoveling of snow, tree limb disposal, weed-whacking*, leaf-blowing*, Seated lawn mowing*, snow-blower*, snow-plow* are all **seasonal tasks**.
 - All tasks marked with (*) require prior experience with mechanical equipment such as but not limited to (mixing of fuel, trouble-shooting, on-the-field maintenance) AND apply to use these tools. Any mechanical issues that cannot be resolved should be immediately reported so that our mechanics can service them.

Day(s) of Monthly Event

- Gift Shop "Cashier" 8am to 12noon , includes pulling items out to the "sales floor".
- Security/Perimeter check (any oddities are to be reported to **PERSON X** however, if you may be of imminent danger, dial 911) **Large events have armed Smithfield police officers on site**
- Controlling Live-Stream cameras/technology
- Parking advisor
- Taking out trash
- Serving monks and lay-community food
- Providing drinks for monks and community
- Preparing *Karanīya Metta* (Loving Friendliness) bags of excess treats placed in alms bowls
- Cleaning *Sālā* the Main Hall's kitchen counters and floors
- Vacuuming the rugs of main hall and large shrine room
- Refilling *Yārd Nām* aka "water-wish" bottles
- Cleaning up bathrooms of Main Hall
- Litter pick-up (must be willing to wear PPE such as nitrile gloves, face mask, and safety vests)

Breakdown/Cleanup after Event

- Triple-count amount raised with others from main fundraising event
- Cleaning *Sālā* the Main Hall's kitchen counters and floors
- Vacuuming the rugs of main hall and large shrine room
- Refilling *Yārd Nām* aka "water-wish" bottles
- Cleaning up bathrooms of Main Hall
- Litter pick-up (must be willing to wear PPE such as nitrile gloves, face mask, and safety vests)
- Break-down and put away the area where event will be held
- Break-down and put away special structures
- Break-down and put away any decorations
- Break-down and put away rain/shade tents

MINORS:

In Buddhism, a person under 20 years of age is considered a minor. However in the modern world, a person under 18 years of age is considered a minor. To prevent any scandals (monks with children / children with children or adult(s) with children), it is **highly recommended** for parents to supervise their children or be on temple grounds.

However, there have been cases where the children or regular temple devotees are dropped off at the temple for classes and take on some of the **non-machinery daily duties** while waiting for their parents' return.

Please contact **PERSON Z**, our Ethics Liaison, at 401-xxx-xxxx.

Any minor disputes or issues, the monks will provide Dhamma Lessons to help ease and guide for a renewed fulfilled life. Any disputes or issues that require judicial actions cannot be handled by monks and **PERSON Z**, our Ethics Liaison, will contact our Board Committee to have the issue resolved immediately, including but not limited to; investigation, expulsion, halting of program(s) & legal actions on parties involved.

MERIT MADE & RECEIVED:

We understand that there will be many inquiries and people of other faiths that have kind hearts, who are not Buddhist by nature. Therefore it should be made clear as to action and reasoning for the actions so as to not make it feel like it was imposed on you.

- **Boun** aka ***Puññā*** is the word for **Merit** -
 - ***Nidhi-kaṇḍa-sutta Gāthā*** - *Verses from the Discourse on the Reserve Fund*

A person stashes a fund away, deep underground, at the water line:
"When a need or duty arises, this will provide for my needs,
for my release if I'm denounced by the king, molested by thieves,
in case of debt, famine, or accidents."
With aims like this in the world a reserve fund is stashed away.
But no matter how well it's stored, deep underground, at the water line,
it won't all always serve one's need. The fund gets shifted from its place, or one's memory gets confused;
Or—unseen—nāgas (dragons) make off with it, spirits steal it, or hateful heirs run off with it.
When one's merit's ended, it's totally destroyed.
But when a man or woman has laid aside a well-stored fund of generosity,
virtue, restraint, & self-control, with regard to a shrine, the Saṅgha,
a fine individual, guests, mother, father, or elder sibling:
That's a well-stored fund. It can't be wrested away. It follows you along.
When, having left this world, for wherever you must go,
you take it with you. This fund is not held in common with others, & cannot be stolen by thieves.
So, enlightened, you should make merit, the fund that will follow you along.
This is the fund that gives all they want to beings human, divine.
Whatever devas (heavenly beings) aspire to, that is all gained by this.
- **Reception of Blessing**
 - ***Añjali*** - *hands are palm to palm at the chest with head slightly bowed down or fully bowed down in a kneeled position.*
 - This action is done to indicate a respectful manner and sincerity in accepting or offering of something, which is the monk(s)' blessings.
 - Since monks are typically sitting, it would be disrespectful to be standing, while they're sitting, and giving you a blessing.
 - This action is not intended to make you feel less than who you are, or that you're now converted to be Buddhist. It is truly a form of respect and sincerity.

APPLICATION FOR VOLUNTEER WORK & (NON-OBLIGATORY) COMMUNITY SERVICE

Full Name

Address

Contact Number

IF a MINOR (modern day minor), please provide:

Date of Birth

Emergency Contact / Relation

<input type="text"/>	Select Relationship ▾
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E.C. Number

Please select from the drop down, the **Type of Volunteer Work** you'd like to be involved with

Daily Volunteer Duties ▾

Please select the **Shift Duties**

Morning Shift ▾

Please select the **Number of Hours** willing to contribute

one hour ▾

For high school or university applications, please print this page and have this section filled out by our temple's Abbot and President of the Board Committee.

Wat Lao Buddhovath of Rhode Island has received volunteer service by, _____, on date(s) _____.

_____ has expressed and initiated contact with us and with their exemplary work, are destined to be of great service to any community they're in. Due to their self-initiation, we also recognize that they're destined to be great leaders.

We wish wellness and success in whatever endeavors _____ takes on.

With sincerest regards,

Ven. Ajahn _____ Date

Mr(s). _____ Date

Current Temple Abbot

Current President Board Committee

SECTION X

Court-ordered community service:

Monks are not allowed to present untruths for any reason, so it is imperative that no deception was used to say that *X-number hours* was worked, when only *Y-number of hours* was served.

Please print out this section and have the abbot and committee members acknowledge and sign-off on hours completed

Wat Lao Buddhovath INC.

88 Limerock Road
Smithfield, RI 02917
401-232-7696
samanerawatlaobuddhavath@gmail.com



To whom it may concern,

I, Venerable Ajahn _____, the abbot of Wat Lao Buddhovath, and the Board Committee of this Lao-American Buddhist temple, hereby verify and certify that Mr(s) _____ has volunteered for a total of _____ hour(s) of community service on this/these date(s) listed below.

If there is any further information needed or to be clarified, please feel free to contact us at the above information.

Date	Time In	Time Out	Hours	Description of Work

With sincerest regards,

Ven. Ajahn _____ Date

Mr(s). _____ Date

Current Temple Abbot

Current President Board Committee

Yearly cookout for volunteers

1. Appreciation for our volunteers - more than 8 times for a Gift card / reward for raffle entry
2. Do not ask them to bring anything or ask for them to make duties
3. Set a annually time of the month
4. Early notice for reminder
5. No alcohol / only socializing and network
6. Encourage +1 for kids under 10 years old
7. Raffle ticket for most numbers of help time
8. Board Members are omitted from raffle entry due to "being rigged" rumors are already flowing.
- 9.