



VOLUNTEER PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Indoor and Outdoor Dream Teams

For questions about this project or to learn more about volunteering contact Nikki McDougald, Community Outreach Coordinator, at (919) 723-9292 or nmcdougald@wakesmartstart.org.

Indoor and Outdoor Dream Teams

Dream Teams complete needed projects inside child care and early childhood program sites, or support outdoor learning through projects that enhance physical activity and gardening. Dream Teams may paint an early childhood program's hallways, install tree stumps to make an outdoor story circle, build a teepee for green beans to grow on or install raised beds for planting.



How this Project Helps

These projects help improve the care and education settings for children. In some cases they transform playgrounds into outdoor learning environments by making them more interactive with grass mazes, walking trails and edible gardens. Dream Team projects at child care sites often support the work of Farm to Childcare and Preventing Obesity by Design, two programs that seek to reduce early childhood obesity by getting fresh foods in child care settings and fostering more outdoor exercise. Improving health enhances a child's readiness for Kindergarten.



Dream Team Materials

Once the scope of the project is determined, WCSS can assist with identifying materials needed. For outside projects, program experts provide planning and guidance to ensure enhancements are within regulations. For indoor Dream Team work, child care directors submit projects that are reviewed by our staff. Many teams choose to leave a piece of equipment such as a wheelbarrow, signed by volunteers, as a gift to the center to support future work.



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Size of Volunteer Team

Small (10 or fewer)

Large (11 + or more)

Minimum Number of Supplies

The amount of needed supplies is defined by the scope of work. Most Dream Teams bring their own tools and provide plants and materials needed for the project. Some centers have funding to purchase materials, but most do not. We target projects to centers that serve low-income families that pay for care using child care subsidy vouchers. These centers are reimbursed for care at below-market rate, and therefore benefit greatly from these community projects.

Volunteer Team's Responsibilities

- Gather/purchase all materials
- Coordinate with the local center regarding drop off location for materials
- Ensure all volunteers sign-in on the day of service

Steps for Organizing a Dream Team

- Identify the type of Dream Team you are interested in participating in
- Organize your team and assess skill levels for the desired project selected
- Determine budget and capacity for raising funds and materials needed

Wake County SmartStart's Support of the Project

- Provide a sample budget
- Coordinate securing a plan for the work
- Answer questions to support the planning process
- Assist with locating a child care center or program site for the Dream Team work
- Share the story of your support to inspire others