



FSM Volunteer Handout

Thanks for Volunteering!

Friends of Second Marsh (FSM) accomplishes its goals through its highly-valued volunteers. Volunteers are, in fact, key to nearly everything FSM does, from our Board of Directors, the work we do to maintain the integrity of the Marsh, to our communications and our stewardship work throughout the watershed.

Our goal is to engage your talents and skills, and increase our organizational capacity through volunteer recruitment.

The purpose of this **Volunteer Handout** is to introduce you to FSM, explain the benefits of volunteering and to explain what you can expect as a volunteer.

Benefits

Volunteering is a great way to:

- Learn new skills
- Meet new people
- Build your resume
- Fulfill school or other community service requirements
- Give back to your community
- Do your part to help the environment
- Help an organization complete its projects/programs.

What to Expect

FSM is committed to engaging and supporting volunteers in a meaningful and responsible way. The ultimate goal is to ensure successful volunteer experiences so that you as a satisfied volunteer come out again, tell your friends and family, and maybe even make a donation.

FSM Mandate

Friends of Second Marsh (FSM) is a not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to the protection, appreciation and restoration of Second Marsh and our natural heritage system.

Our mandate includes education, interpretation and stewardship activities, developing partnerships and fostering connections with all sectors of the community.

Website

For a full history of FSM and Second Marsh, please visit www.secondmarsh.ca

As a volunteer you:

Expect an effective, safe and supportive environment in which to volunteer

- Every volunteer will have a person to report to for direction, advice and information and provide feedback. A supervisor may be an FSM employee, Board member or another, more experienced volunteer (lead volunteer).
- The task will have clear objectives, be clearly defined and adequately planned.
- Training and resources will be provided, as necessary.
- Any applicable safety procedures will be provided to volunteers. If the volunteer cannot or will not work safely, the volunteer may be removed from the job.

Want a good fit

- Assess whether the organization's culture is a good fit with your own values.
- Consider your interests, skills, abilities and attitude when volunteering. A good fit with a volunteer opportunity will help ensure a satisfactory outcome for both you as the volunteer and FSM.
- FSM will apply screening criteria to help ensure the "right fit" for both the volunteer and FSM.

Act with respect and integrity at all times

- Whether working with FSM staff, other volunteers or Board members or encountering members of the public while on site, your conduct is reflective of FSM.

Learn while having fun

- Volunteering can be a learning experience and great fun, even if there is some hard work involved.

Provide feedback

- Ask questions at any time of FSM staff or Board members on site.
- Share your level of satisfaction about your volunteer experience with FSM. We want to hear from you in order to improve our volunteer interactions.

Will be appreciated

- Volunteers may be mentioned in our e-newsletter, social media and website. Long-term volunteers may be provided with letters of recommendation, upon request.

Waiver

Those in attendance at FSM volunteer and other planned activities/events will be required to sign a waiver for the day of the activity. The waiver will release FSM and the property owner from all claims, damages or actions arising from FSM volunteer and other planned activities/events. The waiver will also include an acknowledgement that FSM may take photos.

Contact Us

Visit <https://www.secondmarsh.ca/support-us/become-a-volunteer/> where you will find further information in a Volunteer Q & A. You may also email/call FSM staff at staff@secondmarsh.ca or 905-723-5047 if you have any questions or if you would like to be added to our volunteer email distribution list.