



NeighborWorks NEPA
Friendly Visitor
Volunteer Application



NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania’s Friendly Visitor program connects volunteers with older adult homeowners in Northeastern Pennsylvania to provide free companionship services. The goal of this program is to reduce feelings of isolation for older adults through social engagement by providing a warm voice, kind ear, and a connection to resources should needs arise. If you are interested in being a Friendly Visitor, please complete and return the below form. Applications will be accepted until **January 27th, 2023!**

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact/Phone: _____

T-shirt size: ___Small ___Medium ___Large ___X-Large ___2XL ___Other

Service Information

How many older adults would you like to start the program with? _____

How many hours can you contribute weekly/biweekly? _____

Do you have a gender preference for your client? ___Yes ___No
If yes, what would you prefer? _____

What is the furthest distance you are willing to travel to meet your client? _____
What area would you prefer to stay in? _____

Will you be available Saturday, February 4th to attend a one-time on-site training session from 10am to 3pm? ___Yes ___No

If no, are you willing to do the training virtually? Yes No

Interests

Review the list below and check each item that interest you: (This will be used to appropriately match volunteers with clients based on interest)

- Reading Music Art Movies/TV
 Gardening Hiking/Walking Travelling Sports
 Volunteering Outdoor Activities Cooking/Baking Animals
 History Science Puzzles Chess

Use the space below to add any additional interest or specific interest that will assist in the pairing process.

How did you learn about the Friendly Visitor volunteer program?

NeighborWorks NEPA requires and conducts a background check for all Friendly Visitor volunteers. Do you consent to having a background check conducted?

Yes No

Volunteer Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS ARE DUE January 27th, 2023

Please return completed applications to:
Alyssa Espinoza, VISTA Volunteer Coordinator
NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania
815 Smith Street
Scranton, PA 18504
Phone: 570-558-2490
Email: AEspinoza@nwnepa.org

Friendly Visitor Volunteer Program FAQ

What will happen after I submit my application?

- 1) Your application will be reviewed, and a background check will be conducted. Once you are approved, the volunteer coordinator will begin matching volunteers with eligible clients. This process may take a couple weeks to ensure volunteers are properly matched based on their preferences.
- 2) Plan to attend the required training session on February 4th, 2023. If you are unable to attend, a virtual training option will be offered. Details for the virtual training session will come at a later time. If you need to do this option, please indicate it on your application.

What trainings will I need to participate in the program?

- Volunteers will be required to take part in a two-part training that includes *Working with Older Adults* and *Setting and Maintaining Boundaries with Older Adults*. Both trainings will occur on the same day with a lunch break in-between. Lunch will be provided to on-site volunteers. These trainings will help prepare you for all that is needed for the program and will be held by NWNepa employees to allow for necessary questions.

What is expected of me as a volunteer?

- As a Friendly Visitor volunteer, you are expected to make a six-month commitment to the program. During this six-month period, you will coordinate a schedule with your assigned homeowner to meet either weekly or biweekly. Meeting times are completely dependent on volunteers; however, meetings should be at least 30 minutes long.
- During these meetings, it is up to you and your assigned homeowner to decide what to do. Suggested activities include: walking in a park, meeting for coffee, chit chat in the home, art class, etc. Be creative. All volunteers will receive an expense report sheet that will allow volunteers to be reimbursed for any expenses acquired when volunteering. What can be included will be discussed at the training session.
- You will be expected to meet with a NWNepa employee monthly to discuss your progress as a Friendly Visitor volunteer, assess how its effect on the assigned homeowner, and provide you with any resource connections that may be beneficial to your client based on your insight. Meetings beyond a month will be available upon request.
- You will be expected to track your hours throughout your service. Hours will be reported to NWNepa employee during monthly meeting.

Can I provide transportation to my client?

- No. Due to liability reasons, volunteers are prohibited from driving their clients. Only plan activities outside the home if the homeowner has a ride to/from the meeting location.

OTHER QUESTIONS?

Please call Alyssa Espinoza at NeighborWorks Northeastern PA at 570-558-2490 or

Aespinoza@nwnepa.org!