

Ribfest Needs Volunteers

Volunteers Sign Up, Give Back to Help at Naperville Ribfest

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-- While Naperville Ribfest attracts visitors with its many sights, sounds and flavors, it has no problem organizing a large volunteer workforce whose time, talent and treasure ensure a successful and enjoyable event every year.



"We have several thousand volunteers and we need more now," says Diane Simmons, Ribfest Manpower Chair. "It takes about 3,500 volunteers to work Ribfest and we couldn't run Ribfest without our volunteers."

Volunteering at Ribfest unites people for a fun and common purpose: raising monies to fight against child abuse. There's still time for individuals, school groups, churches, community organizations and businesses to help at Ribfest. Volunteers are needed to serve beverages, assist in the identification tents, help in the children's play area, distribute information at the entrance gates, serve as parking attendants, work in the cleanup of the grounds, and support the merchandising tent.

Those who are interested can visit <u>www.ribfest.net</u> and click on the Volunteer tab. Simmons explains that people can click on the <u>VolunteerSpot</u> button to sign up for available shifts.

"It's a super-easy online tracking system and has worked well for us," she says.

Many locals make volunteering at Ribfest a tradition. Naperville resident Kevin Keisner has worked with Boy Scout Troop 111 for several years parking cars at Ribfest. The benefits to working this event are, he says, that "it's close by to my home and the shifts aren't too long. The boys and parents work together managing the parking lot and answering questions. We appreciate being part of the Ribfest team and the people watching is phenomenal."

Sometimes, it's the role and cause that attract volunteers. Kristina Purdy, a longtime Naperville Central High School Lacrosse mom, relishes her family's role as "bone-pickers"—those that collect the bones left in the garbage and on festival grounds.

"We come out as a group, put on lots of sun block, get the gloves on, grab bags and off we go," she laughs. "We're helping to defray costs of a sports program and helping Ribfest."

For more information, visit www.ribfest.net.

About Naperville Ribfest:

Ribfest is run by the 140+ members of the <u>Exchange Club</u> in cooperation with its partners including the City of Naperville and the Naperville Park District. More than 4,000 volunteers and hundreds of sponsors support the event with 100% of the proceeds from Ribfest going to support the elimination of child abuse and domestic violence.

The 2015 Grand Sponsors are White Sox, Chrysler Jeep, Meijer, Baird & Warner, Lextech, Exelon

Generation, Red Frog Events, OneMainFinancial, Euclid Beverage, Miller Lite, Coca-Cola, CBS Radio, ABC 7 Chicago, D&J Amusements, Navistar and Naperville Bank & Trust/Wintrust Community Banks, Chicago & NW Indiana Hyundai Dealers, Napleton's Valley Hyundai and Waste Management.

About Naperville Exchange Club

The Exchange Club of Naperville chartered in 1987; its 140 members are dedicated to the elimination of child abuse and domestic violence. Through Ribfest, the Exchange Club has donated more than \$14 million to more than 50 local charities. Check us out at www.ribfest.net and www.exchangeclub.org.

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Jacqueline Camacho-Ruiz JJR Marketing (630) 441-6057 email us here

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