

United Way of Bucks County

413 Hood Blvd.

Fairless Hills, PA 19030

Tel: (215) 949-1660



VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY

At United Way of Bucks County (UW Bucks), volunteers are essential to our mission. We want everyone to feel safe, respected, and valued while giving back. To ensure that, we follow simple, consistent guidelines around background checks.

One-Time Volunteers

If you are joining us for a single-day or one-time event, you do **not** need to complete a background check.

One-Time Child-Serving Volunteers

Participation in any program that involves working directly with children, even once (e.g., Yes, Chef Junior, school, or early education–supported events), will require completion of all Pennsylvania child-serving clearances, including PATCH, Child Abuse History Clearance, and FBI Fingerprinting.

Recurring Volunteers

If you plan to volunteer with us on an ongoing basis (for example, monthly, weekly, or at multiple events over time), we ask you to complete a **free volunteer background check through the *Pennsylvania Access To Criminal History (PATCH)* website**. UW Bucks will provide access to this process at no cost, and it can be done quickly online, onsite, or by paper/email.

Application & Disclosure

All volunteers (one-time and recurring) must complete a Volunteer Application. *This does not apply to volunteers at special events (e.g., BKO, Tools for School). Special event volunteers are required to complete a waiver but do not need to fill out a formal application.*

As part of our application process, we ask all volunteers whether they have ever been arrested for or convicted of a crime. If you answer “yes,” you’ll be asked to share more details (when, where, and what).

- Sharing this information does **not automatically disqualify you** from volunteering.
- UW Bucks only denies volunteer service if:
 - The offense is directly related to the volunteer role, or
 - Participation would create a safety risk to our property, staff, or guests.
- Please note not disclosing an arrest or conviction will result in termination of the volunteer relationship.

Protecting Your Privacy

All information you share with us is treated confidentially and is only used to determine eligibility for volunteering.

Our Commitment

We value every person’s willingness to serve. Our background check policy is designed to balance the safety of our community with fair opportunities for all who want to get involved.