

Dear Pirate Power Pack Volunteer(s),

Congratulations you're in the best volunteer site ever! My experiences for this program have changed my life.

Before we began, we knew there was a lot to be done since we were trying this program out for the first time, so there was a lot of trial and error and figuring out what works best. In order to have the best experiences possible you need to be determined and dedicated. It is very important that we make menus that every kid can enjoy. The biggest problem we have run into is getting a larger variety of lunches and dinners, that are easy to prepare. The hardest part of volunteering I would say would be delivery days, because you have to walk outside to deliver the packs. However it is also the most rewarding because you get to actually see all of the kids you are serving. Another thing you need to know is that the identities of the kids need to be confidential, and delivery days need to be as low key as possible. We have had students say, "What's that for?" several times and you have to come up with a way to not reveal that it's a food service program for their classmates. To create menus you can refer to the old ones from

the previous year and ask Trent or Soeder for tips. Another thing you should know is that we have special needs volunteers who help us inventory, and rotate shelves. I'm unsure if they plan on continuing next year because as I said, this has been a lot of trial and error. One thing we would like to see happen with the program is for more personalization. You can do this by sending out surveys to the kids to see who likes what. For example we had a student come to us with nearly 10 bags of maple and brown sugar oatmeal. She said she brought them back because she doesn't like that kind and doesn't wanna throw them out. So we began making sure that her bag specifically does not get that kind, so it isn't wasted. I wish you the best of luck and I hope you find yourself as invested, if not more invested than I was in the program. And make your volunteer work worth your while, because it is much more than a requirement, it is an eye opening experience that you should see before being thrown into the real world. Good Luck! =)

-Chancey Norton