2027 KP Hawai‘i Annual Day of Service
Hosted by HPMG

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

REGISTRATION

Can people outside of Kaiser Permanente (i.e., non-employees) volunteer?

Yes, but they must be hosted by a physician/clinician/employee of Hawaii Permanente Medical Group, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals, Pacific Permanente Group, or an HPMG retiree. **Adult guests must register themselves** via the event website, KPHIAnnualDayofService.org, before the December 18 registration deadline. For guests who are minors, a parent/legal guardian must register them via the event website.

I'd like to bring my child's friends/team to volunteer together as a service project. Is this possible?

Yes, you may bring groups of children to volunteer with you or your family at the same site. Please be sure their parent/legal guardian registers them via the event website, KPHIAnnualDayofService.org. You'll also need to have each child's parent/legal guardian complete a site-specific release form, which can be found here in the FAQ and Forms section of the registration website. Completed forms must be submitted when you check in on January 18. Children must be supervised at all times.

I want to volunteer at one location and my guests want to volunteer elsewhere. Can we split up?

We kindly request that hosts and their guests stay together and volunteer at the same location.

I work on Maui/Hawai‘i Island/Kaua‘i, but I'll be on O‘ahu on January 18. Can I volunteer at an O‘ahu location?

Yes, you may register to volunteer at the location of your choice, even if it's on a different island. Travel expenses will NOT be hosted nor eligible for reimbursement.

Does the volunteer work require heavy lifting or physical activity?

While some activities are child-friendly, there are also activities (e.g., carrying heavy objects, clearing grass with blades, etc.) that may be physically challenging and/or more appropriate for older/experienced volunteers. When registering children, please read the descriptions of the various activities at each site, as some will indicate age restrictions due to the type of work being performed. Each activity description also includes a difficulty level to help give volunteers an idea of how strenuous the work will be.

How do I add guests who are minors if I already submitted my registration?

Please contact HPMG-Events@kp.org to add guests who are minors. Guests cannot be added to a volunteer party after the registration deadline – December 18, 2026.

DAY-OF TOPICS AND PARKING

Do I need to contact someone if I cannot attend the Annual Day of Service?

For planning purposes, please let us know if you or anyone in your party is unable to attend the event by emailing HPMG-Events@kp.org ASAP with your cancellation. You do not need to disclose the reason for your cancellation.

If I have to leave early or come late on January 18, can I still volunteer?

For certain sites, you can still volunteer if you must come late or leave early. On O‘ahu and Maui, staff and shuttles will be present throughout the day at the check-in/parking locations.

What do I wear to the Annual Day of Service?

To reduce waste, returning volunteers are asked to re-wear the 2026 Annual Day of Service blue, commemorative long-sleeved shirt. If you or your guest(s) do not have this Annual Day of Service shirt, please specify your shirt size(s) when registering for this event. You'll receive your shirt(s) when you check in on January 18. For additional attire recommendations, please refer to the Locations & Activities page on the event website for activity-specific instructions.

Can I drive to and park at the volunteer site or must I take a shuttle bus?

Parking is extremely limited at He‘eia Ahupua‘a in Windward O‘ahu (Papahana Kuaola, Kako‘o ‘Ōiwi, and Paepae o He‘eia), Ka‘ala Cultural Learning Center in Leeward O‘ahu, and Paeloko Learning Center on Maui. As a result, parking and check-in will be stationed offsite, and volunteers will take buses to the volunteer site.

Can I trade my commemorative shirt for a different size when I check in?

Due to limited inventory, we will not allow volunteers to exchange their Annual Day of Service shirt for a different size on January 18.

What happens if it rains? Should we bring ponchos or umbrellas?

In the event of rainfall, activities will still proceed at all locations, with the possible exception of Papahana Kuaola on O‘ahu. (We will outreach to volunteers in the event a cancellation is necessary.) You’re free to bring ponchos, umbrellas, towels, etc.; however, please note that you will be responsible for these items, and we will not be able to store them for you.

Will there be a place where I can leave my belongings?

There will be designated areas at each location where volunteers can leave their belongings. Because staff will not watch over these belongings, volunteers will be responsible for what they bring. Additionally, staff at check-in/parking sites will not be able to hold items for you. We encourage you to bring only what you need and refrain from brining any valuable items.

If we work in the lo‘i, will we have a place to rinse off?

Lo‘i (taro patch) activities will be muddy, and the locations that host these activities — Papahana Kuaola, Kako‘o ‘Ōiwi, and The Cultural Learning Center at Ka‘ala, all on O‘ahu, and Waipā Ahupua‘a on Kaua‘i, as well as Paeloko Learning Center on Maui — will have running water that attendees can use to rinse off. If you plan on working in the lo‘i, we recommend that you bring an old towel and an extra change of clothes.

Will you be serving us breakfast and lunch?

Breakfast will not be served; however, lunch will be provided at the end of the event. Volunteers are welcome to eat on site or take their lunch home as they leave for the day (grab and go). Pre-packaged, individually wrapped snacks will also be available after the activities begin. If you or any of your guests have food allergies or restrictions, be sure to indicate them when you register for this event. Please bring a full reusable water bottle. We’ll have water-filling stations and/or unchilled bottled water on hand if you run out of water.

Should I be concerned about leptospirosis?

While working in the He‘eia (Windward O‘ahu), Wai‘anae (Leeward O‘ahu), Waihe‘e/Waiehu (Maui), Hilo (Hawai‘i Island), Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a (Hawai‘i Island), or Waipā (Kaua‘i) Watershed environments (all of which are collectively referred to herein as “Watersheds”), there is a chance of exposure to the germ that causes leptospirosis, a water-borne infection that is often mild but can occasionally be dangerous and may lead to more serious consequences, including temporary or permanent impairment of liver and kidney function. In some cases, leptospirosis infection can also result in death.

Though the risk of contracting leptospirosis during work in these Watersheds is likely low, please wear appropriate clothing and foot attire while working in the water or in the taro patch. Protect your skin from cuts and scrapes, and do not immerse any open wounds or rashes underwater. Seek medical attention promptly if you develop a significant illness or fever within two weeks after your day of participation at the watersheds.

A one-time dose of an antibiotic taken on the Day of Service can help to protect you from acquiring leptospirosis. If you’re interested in taking an antibiotic for leptospirosis prevention on the Annual Day of Service, please contact Dr. Johnnie Yates at johnnie.a.yates@kp.org.

Please note that there will be many opportunities for volunteering at He‘eia, The Cultural Learning Center at Ka‘ala Farm, Kalaeloa Heritage Park, Paeloko Learning Center, Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a Forest Reserve, Haleolono, and Waipā Foundation that do not involve working in the water, for those who would prefer this.

Can I post photos of myself at Annual Day of Service on my social media account(s)?

Yes, volunteers are welcome to share appropriate photos of their experience at the Annual Day of Service on their personal social media accounts. Please use the hashtag #KPAloha in your posts.

ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE APP

How do I download the Annual Day of Service app?

We have a special app dedicated to supporting the Annual Day of Service event. The app will include your QR code that will be needed to check in on January 18, site-specific information and directions, and the photo contest feed. Instructions for downloading the app will be sent to host registrants closer to January 18.

What are the rules for the photo contest?

Volunteers are encouraged to submit their favorite photos depicting aloha ʻāina at our Annual Day of Service. Photos are automatically entered in the contest once posted to the photo feed on the Annual Day of Service app. Details about the photo contest will be available closer to January 18.