

FAQs – for Packing Shift Volunteers, Runners and Labelers

1. What happens during the event – what jobs are available?

Most volunteers work at assembly-line type packing stations where they scoop, bag, weigh, or seal bags filled with rice, soy, dried vegetables and a nutritionally complete blend of vitamins and minerals. These bags are boxed, placed on pallets and shipped to FMSC partners in the field working hard to reach the neediest children around the world.

There are both seated and standing jobs. Most jobs at the packing stations are standing, although the person at the bag sealer can be seated. Labeling is another seated job, where volunteers affix a location/expiration date sticker to each food bag. For those who like to be on the move and who are able to lift 30-40 pounds, we also need “runners” who refill the ingredient bins, or carry ingredients to the packing stations and full boxes of food to be weighed and palletized. Anyone age 5 and older can help.

Each two-hour shift includes a short orientation telling about FMSC and the process for packing meals, and ends with a summary of how much food was packed during the shift, an inspiring video about a life that was changed by FMSC food, and the opportunity to pray over the food that was packed.

2. Can I pack with my friends in a group?

Each packing station holds 13-21 people (optimally 15-17), depending on how many people you choose to have scooping ingredients and weighing the filled bags. You may register up to 20 people at a time. If you sign up as a group, or sign up separately and specify the same group name, we will do our best to assign you to a packing station together.

3. What are the adult:child ratios for packing?

For safety reasons, children under the age of 5 are not allowed in our packing area (sorry, no exceptions)

- We recommend that groups of youth be third grade or older.
- Grades K-2: 1 student to 1 adult.
- Grades 3-6: 3 students to 1 adult
- Grades 7-9: 4 students to 1 adult
- Grades 10-12: 5 students to 1 adult

Please Note: Everyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult (an adult is someone 18 years of age or older).

HIGH SCHOOL GROUPS: At least half of the required chaperones must be non-student adults (teachers, advisors or parents). If needed, a few 18-year-olds will be allowed to fill in as chaperones.

4. Will there be child care?

Yes, child care for infants through age 4 will be offered for one shift: Saturday 9/15/18 at 9:00am. Children age 5+ are allowed to help pack food. Please register for child care by 8/31/18 so that we can ensure adequate child care staffing. To register for child care, send an email to gccfmisc@gmail.com with the following information:
Parent Name:

Parent Phone:

Parent Email:

Child's Name:

Child's Age:

Describe anything we need to know in order to provide the best care for your child:

5. Are there any seated jobs for volunteers?

Yes! We reserve one of our most important tasks for sit-down volunteers. Volunteers can sit while labeling bags, which is a vital step to the packing process. This task entails putting our FMSC label and expiration date on each bag before it is filled with food.

The person using the sealer at the packing stations may also be seated.

6. Can I sign up for more than one shift?

Yes. We will need to fill more than 1,200 volunteer slots to get the job done!

7. How do I know that my registration was successful?

You will receive an email confirming your registration. Closer to the event, you will receive another email asking you to re-confirm your attendance. It is important to fill all of our packing slots and allow those on the wait list to pack.

8. When do I arrive for my shift?

Please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the shift to allow time for check-in. Check-in will open 30 minutes prior to the beginning of each packing shift.

9. Is there parking? Where do I go when I arrive?

There is a free parking lot right in front of the building. Please go to the check-in table in the Crossection (through large glass doors at the center of the front of the building).

10. What should I wear?

Please wear comfortable clothes and closed-toe shoes. Please leave all jewelry at home, or locked in your car. Please review the Jewelry Policy

<http://www.fmsc.org/jewelry>

11. If I'm allergic to one of the ingredients, is there still something I can do?

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) advises volunteers with food allergies to exercise caution when determining whether or not to participate in food packing. We are able to provide a complete list of ingredients in FMSC's food products, but we cannot guarantee the environments of our ingredients' manufacturing. Volunteers with extreme food allergies or allergies to any of the listed ingredients are advised not to pack. Those applying labels have the option to be seated in the Cross Section, away from the gym where the open soy and other ingredients become airborne. For MannaPack Rice ingredients, please visit the page on their

website. <https://www.fmsc.org/allergies>

12. What if I don't feel good the day of my shift?

We will miss you, but you should not attend if you are ill, especially with any flu-like (vomiting/diarrhea) symptoms. Please email gccfmisc@gmail.com.

13. What if I have to cancel?

If you can no longer work as you registered, please email gccfmisc@gmail.com and inform us as soon as you know. It is important that all shifts are filled or we will not be able to get all of the food packed.

14. Who do I call with questions about the event?

Contact Jenni Biggs at 314-707-4467 or email gccfmisc@gmail.com