



LEADING EXTENSION VOLUNTEERS

Three excellent professional development opportunities provided by:



NORTH CENTRAL REGION
Volunteer Specialists

Working Effectively with Volunteers Seminar Series

Do you work with volunteers and feel like you have to do it all yourself? Are you looking for ways to better engage volunteers, increase program capacity, and empower others to lead?

This interactive three-part webinar series introduces the **Developmental Stages of an Extension Professional (DSEP) Model** and its application to volunteer systems work. Participants will explore how their leadership approaches influence volunteer engagement and learn how the DSEP model and ISOTURE research can guide professional growth and volunteer development. Through reflection, discussion, and practical activities, participants will gain strategies to shift from doing the work themselves to empowering volunteers to teach programs, contribute to decisions, and lead major initiatives. Participants will also receive digital resources and tools to support volunteer engagement and leadership development. By the end of the series, participants will have a deeper understanding of how their own development as Extension professionals can strengthen volunteer systems, expand program capacity, and increase organizational impact.

WHEN: Nov. 10th, Nov. 17th,
and Dec. 1 2026
1PM CT
REGISTRATION Closes
November 6th
COST: Free



Working with Volunteer Boards

WHEN: Feb. 1st - 18th,
2027
10 AM CT
REGISTRATION Closes
Jan. 15th
COST: \$75

This course is designed for Extension professionals who want to **strengthen their ability to lead, support, and manage effective volunteer boards**. Through five interactive modules, participants will examine key components of successful board leadership and governance. Topics include understanding leadership styles and readiness, defining board roles and responsibilities, supporting healthy board structures and relationships, facilitating productive meetings and decision-making processes, and implementing practices for board recruitment, orientation, diversity, and performance evaluation. Participants will also learn how to create organizational maps and role descriptions, strengthen board operations through governing documents and strategic planning, and develop sustainable approaches to board succession and member engagement. By the end of the course, participants will have a deeper understanding of how effective boards function, practical tools to support board members and leadership teams, and a customized plan of action to strengthen the impact, sustainability, and effectiveness of their Extension volunteer boards.



Building and Sustaining an Extension Volunteer Program

This course provides Extension professionals with practical strategies to **recruit, engage, develop, and retain volunteers** in today's evolving volunteer landscape. Across four modules, participants will explore current trends in volunteerism, examine the stages of volunteer development and engagement, and learn relationship-centered approaches for identifying volunteer strengths, passions, and leadership potential. The course also introduces shared leadership and succession planning strategies that strengthen volunteer engagement, foster leadership development, and support long-term program sustainability. Finally, participants will learn to map community assets, leverage existing partnerships and resources, communicate program value to external audiences. By the end of the course, participants will have actionable tools and strategies to build a strong, sustainable volunteer system that advances Extension's mission and creates meaningful opportunities for community engagement.

WHEN: March 1st - 16th,
2027
10 AM CT
REGISTRATION Closes
February 12th
COST: \$75

**REGISTER FOR ONE OR ALL OF THESE COURSES WITH
THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION VOLUNTEER
SPECIALISTS: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/ncrzd/>**

