



LITTLE HANDS HELPING LITTLE HANDS BAKING PROGRAM

at the Ronald McDonald House in New Hyde Park, New York

Thank you for your interest in our “Little Hands Helping Little Hands” Baking Program. All volunteers over the age of 6 are welcome to participate, but the program is especially designed for children between the ages of 6 and 16 who are interested in volunteering. The program gives local schools and youth organizations the opportunity to volunteer by preparing desserts, such as cookies, cakes, muffins, and other snacks, for our resident families. The program teaches children the importance of volunteering and helps them become capable and caring young leaders.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- **Please do not reserve a date on the baking calendar until you are certain your group is ready to make this commitment. Our families count on baking groups to provide delicious desserts while they are dealing with having a sick child being treated in a local hospital, and often bring treats to the hospital for their children during the day.**
- **Youth volunteers must be between the ages of 6 and 16 years old and supervised by an adult. A youth group will not be allowed to bake if they arrive without an adult supervisor.**
- **Groups are limited to a total of 12 participants (generally 10 children and 2 adults). If your group totals more than 12 people, you need to split the group and schedule two dates.**
- **All participants over the age of 18 must provide photo ID upon check-in at the House. Please arrive at your scheduled tour or baking time. Should you arrive earlier than your scheduled time, you may be asked to wait until your kitchen area is ready for use.**
- **You are responsible for planning your baked goods/desserts and purchasing the required ingredients. Kitchen utensils, bowls, mixers, and baking pans are available for your use.**
- **Your kitchen time is limited to 2 hours, including preparation, baking, and clean-up. Please plan to prepare items that can be completed within the allotted time.**
- **In order to insure safety from possible food contamination, all items must be prepared on our premises. No items can be prepped or baked at home and brought to the House.**
- **Participants are required to wear disposable gloves, provided by the House. Long hair must be tied back.**

Please read our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document for more specific information about the Baking Program and your visit to the House.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DOES THE LITTLE HANDS BAKING PROGRAM HELP THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE?

Volunteers visit the House to bake for the families and children staying here. Freshly-prepared desserts and snacks brighten the day of families who are staying with us while their child is being treated in a local hospital.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE LITTLE HANDS BAKING PROGRAM?

Individuals of any age, over the age of 6, are welcome to volunteer to bake. The program was originally created to provide local schools and youth organizations (children ages 6-16) the opportunity to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House. All volunteers under the age of 16 must be supervised by a parent or another adult at all times.

HOW MANY BAKERS MAY VISIT AT ONE TIME?

Youth groups are limited to no more than 12 participants (10 children plus 2 adult supervisors). Groups of adults are limited to no more than 10 participants please.

WHAT DOES A LITTLE HANDS VOLUNTEER HAVE TO DO?

Volunteers schedule a day and time to visit the House to bake. Part of the fun of participating in the Baking Program is organizing your group and planning what you will prepare. Once you have decided on your dessert ideas, purchase the ingredients needed to create your special treats and then visit the House on your scheduled day. Please arrive at your scheduled time. If you arrive earlier than your scheduled time, you may be asked to wait until your assigned kitchen is ready for use.

Baking volunteers should stay in the kitchen with their group throughout the visit. Restrooms are located near the kitchen. The playroom and playground areas are off limits to baking volunteers.

PERSONAL HYGIENE REQUIREMENTS?

All participants must wash their hands when they arrive in the kitchen to start baking, prior to putting on disposable gloves, provided by the House. Long hair should be tied back or a hat may be worn.

WHAT DOES THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE PROVIDE?

We have a fully-stocked kitchen, including, but not limited to, utensils, bowls, mixers, and baking pans, available for your use.

HOW DO I SCHEDULE A DATE TO VISIT THE HOUSE TO BAKE?

Visit our website, www.rmhcnym.org/baking-program, to access the online calendar to schedule a baking date. Please keep your confirmation email in case you need to cancel later.

HOW DO I CANCEL AN ALREADY SCHEDULED DATE/TIME?

Use “Edit My Sign Up” on the lower left-hand side of your confirmation email to complete the cancellation of your sign-up. In addition, please call our Receptionist at 516-775-5683 (extension 130) if you are canceling within 48 hours of the schedule day and time.

HOW OFTEN MAY I SIGN UP TO BAKE?

Due to the popularity of the baking program, and the large number of requests for baking sessions, you may schedule three baking sessions within a six month period.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING MY VISIT?

On arrival, check in at the Reception Desk to complete the required paperwork. All participants over the age of 18 must provide photo ID upon check-in. If you scheduled a tour, you will meet your tour guide and start your House tour, ending in the kitchen. Prepare your goodies and put them out on the counter for our residents. Once you are finished cleaning up your work space, you are ready to head home.

HOW DO I ARRANGE A HOUSE TOUR?

We welcome you to tour the House. Please check “YES” on the sign-up screen when scheduling your baking date (“Do you want a House tour?”).

Please note that our tour guides are scheduled specifically for groups that are visiting the House. If you request a tour when you reserve a date and later decide that you do not want a tour, please email us at least 48 hours prior to your baking date at bake@rmhcnym.org, so that the tour guide may be advised of the schedule change.

BAKING AND SNACK IDEAS?

What are the things that your own family likes to snack on? Some House favorites include: pies, cookies, cakes, muffins, breads, brownies, and puddings. Add some fun decorations too. Thinking outside the box? Some groups make yogurt parfaits, chocolate-dipped pretzels, and other fun snacks.

ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS REGARDING INGREDIENTS?

Yes. Please do not use any nuts, peanut oil, or any peanut-based products in your baking.

HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE IN THE KITCHEN TO BAKE?

Your kitchen time is limited to two (2) hours, including preparation, baking, and clean-up.

HOW MANY DESSERTS DO I NEED TO PREPARE?

You do not need to bake for a specific number of people. Please prepare whatever you will be able to comfortably complete within your allotted time.

WHAT ABOUT CLEAN-UP?

Groups are responsible for kitchen clean-up. Dishes and silverware should be loaded in the dishwasher. Baking pans should be washed by hand and returned to the storage drawers and pantry shelves.

CAN I EARN COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS?

The Baking Program is a good way for young people to earn community service hours. When you arrive at the House, complete the baking program form at the front desk and keep the yellow copy of the form that will be given to you. This is your receipt, as well as acknowledgement of three (3) hours of community service. We do not provide separate service letters.

ARE WE ALLOWED TO TAKE PHOTOS?

You are permitted to take photos while touring the general areas of the House and of your group while baking. However, please be sure that you do not include any families who are staying at the House in your photos.

WHERE IS OUR RONALD McDONALD HOUSE LOCATED?

Our street address is:

267-07 76th Avenue
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

Our contact telephone number is:

516-775-5683 (Extension 130 to reach Reception Desk)

WHERE SHOULD I PARK MY CAR?

There is a Visitor's Parking Lot located to the right as you face the front of the House. The lot is utilized by our residents, volunteers and visitors, so parking spaces may be limited when you arrive. We ask that you carpool as much as possible. You may also park on local streets in the neighborhood.

STILL HAVE A QUESTION NOT ANSWERED HERE?

Please send an email to: bake@rmhcnym.org.