



So you think you might want to volunteer with FtA, huh?

Well, before you make your decision, here's a few things to consider...

1. Most of our activities take place during pre-week. That's the week BEFORE Burning Man. So you have to be able to get to BM the week before if you volunteer with us. Don't worry though, if you're part of our team, we'll get you an early arrival pass.
2. We play hard, but we work really, really hard! If you want to work for a couple of hours, sometimes show up, sometimes not, help when its convenient for you but leave it to others when you've decided to go jump on a magic carpet art car that happens to be passing by, this is NOT the volunteer opportunity for you.
3. Were a pretty organized group, and all of our volunteers are asked to participate in several FtA conference calls over the summer, prior to our arrival on the playa.

Did we dissuade you? No? Then read on.....

We have four primary areas of volunteer responsibilities:

The Kitchen

The Kitchen provides all the gourmet food for the early-week food gifting and dinners (3-4) that we put on for Burning Man's Artists. This is high-quality food, excellently and creatively prepared on time, with love and well being as the key ingredients. Prep for the meals usually begins around 2pm and the kitchen duties continue until all our guests and then volunteers have eaten, usually around 10p. Its long, hard work, but anyone who has ever worked together with us on the playa counts it as one of their most special BM memories.

The Front of the House

The Front-of-the-House is headed up by Steve "Ice" Berg. Steve is FtA's Maitre D'hotel and Master of Ceremonies, and he is known as being one of the playa's most gracious hosts. He and his team are responsible for making sure that we provide our guests with one of their most memorable playa experiences ever; certainly, at the very least, their most memorable playa meal. The role of our Front-of-the-House volunteers is to participate in creating an ambiance, a setting, a "moment in time," full of creativity, and the unexpected that helps amplify the key ingredients of the food to create a palpable sense of love, well-being, wonder and appreciation among all the guests. So, our servers dress in costume and may spontaneously break out in song, or offer a guest a massage, or allow an hors d'oeuvre to be eaten off



their body. If you're friendly, outgoing, creative, and you like to have fun with people, this is the place for you. Other F-o-H responsibilities include designing and executing the decorations and table settings, organizing entertainment, including music, lighting, performers, etc., and cleanup after the meal.

The Back of the House

The Back-of-the-House is headed up by Mark "Abo" Gibson, our *Chef d' Logistique*. This is FtA's version of the DPW. It is a small group that works behind the scenes to make sure that all the systems and infrastructure necessary to support the FtA program are in place and working. Abo is a very unique and beloved member of the FtA team, so if you want some new perspective on the BM experience, and you like to blow things up (just kidding....sort of), then come work with him on his B-o-H team.

Playa Support Team

The Playa Support Team, led by Colonel Angus, is the FtA's version of the greeters, placement, and the artery, all rolled into one. This group does a lot of administrative work in the months leading up to BM, including contacting all the programs participants by phone, then they arrive on the playa early and perform the critical function of locating all participating artists and theme camps in advance of their scheduled dinners, checking in with them to make sure nothing that will effect the success of their dinner has changed, and providing support in case there are extenuating circumstances. It may sound easy, and delivering our special FtA medallion invitations is fun, but when the shit hits the fan and a theme camp's kitchen blows down, or an artist group shows up with 10 more people than expected, or a theme camp isn't located where they're supposed to be, the PST must think on their feet and do whatever has to be done to rectify the situation. If you're outgoing, resourceful, and like to get up early and travel all over the playa all day long, this might be the team for you.

So are you still interested? Yes? Then here's a little more information:

After working hard together for several days on the playa, we tend to become a pretty close-knit group. We like to hang out together and explore the playa together when we're finished with our work, and we love to play practical jokes on each other. Many of our volunteers camp with us, but it's not a requirement.

FtA is not all about the artists. We care a lot about our volunteers' experience, and hope it will be one of your more fun and meaningful times on the playa. And, at the very least, during your time with us, we know you'll eat well!!!

The FtA Volunteerism Credo

One of the fundamental tenets of FtA is the importance of taking care of our volunteers—in addition to the artists we serve—and thus fostering a cohesive bond with the entire FtA ensemble.



We are therefore committed to the following:

- Encouraging all of our volunteers to camp with us if they aren't already committed to any other camp.
- Planning some additional events just for our volunteers.
- Communicating with and engaging our volunteers well before we arrive on the playa to spark creative input, drive inclusiveness, delegate responsibilities, and most importantly, build community.

Additionally, since our volunteers work long hard hours during our dinners, and we want to make sure they are taken care of, we have decreed the following:

- A light meal will be provided for all volunteers between 5:30p-6:30p on each of the dinner nights.
- Food and wine will be set-aside for all the volunteers to eat together after each dinner. The volunteer meals will not be used even if we run out of food for our guests.

We will end the dinners at 10p each night, so all of FtA can gather in the kitchen to break bread together and unwind at 10:30p. Our guests may stay later, but service will end at 10p

Want more information?

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