



## **2018 King County Count Us In Frequently Asked Volunteer Questions**

### **What is involved in volunteering for the count?**

Volunteers will be matched with a currently or formerly homeless guide from the community in order to conduct a visual tally of homeless persons across King County on Friday, January 26, 2018. Paid “guides” with lived experience of homelessness will lead the team in canvassing their count area, using their direct knowledge and expertise to collect the most accurate data possible.

Volunteers will work in small groups with their guide during the early morning hours, meeting their team members at a central deployment center location before walking/driving their assigned routes and aiding with data collection.

### **What time will the count take place?**

The count will take place during the very early morning hours of Friday, January 26. Nearly all street count activities will occur between 2am and 6am (very early Friday morning—this may “feel” like Thursday night). In addition, will be working with local leadership to “pilot” count activities at daybreak in a handful of newly counted/ rural areas of King County.

### **What is the time commitment to volunteer?**

The total time commitment is 5-6 hours, including a 1-hour training held in the weeks before the count and 4-5 hours on the day of the count.

### **Who is eligible to volunteer?**

Volunteer requirements include:

- At least 18 years of age\*
- Able to walk approximately 2-3 miles if necessary
- Complete a 1-hour training session before the count
- Commit to a total of 5-6 volunteer hours, including a 1-hour training session and 4-5 hours on the day of the count

*\*Please note that children under the age of 18 are not allowed to participate in the street count, even with parental supervision.*

### **Where will the count take place? Where do I go on the day of the count?**



The count will be taking place across the entire geography of King County, as teams canvass almost 400 census tracts in the region. On the day of the count, volunteers will meet at deployment center locations placed strategically throughout the county. The exact locations of these deployment centers are currently being finalized, and information will be posted here on our website and emailed to registered volunteers as it becomes available.

**I have volunteered for the count in the past. Will I be counting the same area as I have in the past? How are teams assembled? If people I've counted with in past years want to participate, can we work together?**

We are asking that people interested in participating in this year's count sign up to volunteer by completing the survey on our website (you can get to it [here](#)). The survey will allow you to indicate if you want to come as a group (so you could indicate team members from past years, friends, co-workers, etc) and to identify areas with which you are familiar. There is also a notes field where you can share any additional information you would like us to know. We will use all this information to assemble teams in the weeks leading up to the count. We want to build on people's expertise, and will be working to assign volunteers to count in the same locations as prior years whenever possible.

Please note that this year's count will again feature slightly smaller teams that will include a paid "guide" with lived experience. These guides will aid teams in identifying and accessing areas in which we are likely to find people sleeping outside. Teams will also be canvassing entire census tracts as part of their count routes as opposed to known locations or "hot spots," therefore covering more ground than in prior years. *While we will do everything we can to accommodate requests to count in specific areas, we appreciate your flexibility in helping us ensure 100% coverage of the region.*

**Can I bring my friend, family member, or co-worker to volunteer with me?**

We certainly welcome you to volunteer alongside someone you know, so long as they meet the minimum volunteer requirements (see "who is eligible to volunteer?" above).

You may indicate if there are specific individuals you would like to bring with you when you complete our online volunteer registration. You are also welcome to share the link broadly with your networks: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KingCountyPIT2018>

**What do I need to bring with me on the day of the count?**

Wear comfortable shoes and clothes, as you will be outside and walking around throughout your count shift. Dress warmly and in layers, wearing a jacket, sweatshirt, or raincoat, and other clothing appropriate for the elements. *We will go rain or shine, so bring an umbrella.*



Bring a fully charged cell phone and a flash light, and if you are driving, make sure you have a full tank of gas.

Last but not least, please make sure to get plenty of rest the night before the count!

**What safety measures are being put in place for count teams?**

The safety of all count participants is our number one priority. Safety measures being implemented include the training of all count participants on safety protocols, the involvement of paid guides (individuals experiencing homelessness) on every team, coordination with law enforcement, and specialized teams and strategies to count specific encampments or high-volume areas.

**Do I need a car to volunteer?**

Volunteers are not required to have a car in order to participate, but must arrange their own transportation to meet their team at their assigned deployment center location on the day of the count. If you do have access to a vehicle and are willing to help transport your teammates on the day of the count, [please be sure to indicate so during volunteer registration.](#)

**Where will I go at 2am on January 26?**

Volunteers will be assigned to a regional headquarters; these locations are listed [here](#).

**Will there be a training?**

Yes. Training options, including online and in-person trainings, are listed on the All Home website [here](#). In-person training is required for guides and encouraged for volunteers.

**What if I have additional questions not answered here?**

You are more than welcome to be in touch with additional questions, and may contact Connie Chu at Applied Survey Research at [connie@appliedsurveyresearch.org](mailto:connie@appliedsurveyresearch.org). You may also contact All Home at [allhomekc@allhomekc.org](mailto:allhomekc@allhomekc.org).