



## 2020 Prospective Family Volunteer Information

Daniele and sons show off a bounty of foraged morel mushrooms. 2016

Holden Village  
[www.holdenvillage.org](http://www.holdenvillage.org)

### Have you ever wanted your family to experience a CHANGE OF PACE?

For more than fifty years, volunteers have served as the backbone of Holden Village, giving of their time and talents to create welcoming place of education and renewal for Villagers of all ages. As a multi-generational community, Holden Village values the presence of children and families. If you are looking for a change of pace for your family and have 6 weeks to a year to commit to this unique opportunity, Holden might be the place for you. The following information provides answers to frequently asked questions about bringing your family to Holden that may be helpful for you as you consider this unique and remote opportunity.

**Thank you for your interest in volunteering at Holden Village!**

The following information was compiled to help you discern how moving to Holden might work for your family. While we try to be as thorough as possible, this information is not complete. At your request, the Staff Coordinator can put you in touch with a current family in the Village who can be a resource for you as you consider whether joining the Village staff is a good fit for your family.

***For more information on work and volunteering, please read the Prospective Long-Term Volunteer Information packet.***

## **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

### **Before you move to Holden with your family:**

Making the decision to move to and live at Holden is a significant commitment on the part of families. Here are some aspects of the Village which may contribute to your decision making process:

### **CHILDCARE AND PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

There is no childcare at Holden during the fall, winter, and spring. Parents are responsible for the welfare and care of their dependent children.

Holden Village does not allow the sale of goods or services in the Village by individual staff members. This also goes for childcare; you can't pay someone else to watch your children. You also may not receive payment for caring for the children of another family. Asking other Villagers to help care for your children on a volunteer basis is encouraged. You may also volunteer to watch other children when you have time to do so. Having multiple caring adults around your children can be a wonderful benefit of Village life.

From early June to late August, Holden offers part-time programs for children and youth accompanying their families. The Narnia program provides age-appropriate activities for infants and children through those entering grade five. On weekday mornings (8:30am-12pm) volunteer staff lead games, hikes, and a host of fun and educational activities.

Also during the summer, the Middle and High School program provides activities for youth entering grade six through grade twelve, led by adult volunteers. Middle and High School programming is less consistent than Narnia, with events occurring at different times during the day and evening. Activities are dependent upon the energy, ideas, and number of participants (both guest and staff). It is important to know that as a parent you will not be able to count on a consistent schedule for your children in middle or high school.

Programming for children is created and led by the Village residents throughout the winter season. Often holiday times have additional programmed activities for children and families.

### **LAKE CHELAN PUBLIC SCHOOL AT HOLDEN VILLAGE**

The Holden School is a "remote and necessary public school" and is operated by the Lake Chelan School District. It meets all state educational requirements and credits earned are transferable. All school-aged children must be enrolled in the public school on site. Home schooling is not an option.

The school is divided into elementary (K-6th) and secondary (7th-12th). The teachers and teacher's aides are hired by the School District. The principal visits the Village to meet with parents and teachers several times per year.

School opens the first or second week of September like other public schools in the Lake Chelan School District. The school sets its own hours and schedule, including school breaks. The last day of school is generally during the first week of June.

More information on the school can be found on the district site:

[www.chelanschools.org](http://www.chelanschools.org). The Holden Village School is listed as one of the district schools.

## HOUSING

Housing is simple and often shared, and assigned upon arrival. Living spaces are furnished with basic necessities.

Be prepared that upon arrival you may be housed in transitional space (like a shared room in a lodge) until your assigned housing becomes available. We try our best to get everyone settled as soon as possible and keep them settled in one place. Sometimes it is necessary to ask families to move into different housing as needs determine.

Housing plans take into account the fact that families need housing that works for families. Most families are housed in a chalet (1930s-era house) or other space to accommodate your family. Chalets have several different configurations ranging from a duplex apartment, single family dwelling, or suites including bedrooms and bathrooms. Everyone has access to a living room and kitchen, although it may be shared as common space with other staff members. Bedroom spaces are furnished with basic necessities like beds, dressers, desks, and closets/wardrobes. Living room spaces are typically furnished with couches, chairs, and end tables. Kitchen spaces are equipped with most basic kitchen materials such as pots, pans, and tableware.

Bedroom configurations may include twin, double, queen, or bunk beds. Siblings are often expected to share a bedroom space.

## WORK POSITIONS IN THE VILLAGE

Holden recognizes that caring for children is a parent's first priority. When your family is filling out the application, please think carefully about how your family will balance family care and your work commitments to the Village. Every family has its own approach to family life, childcare, and comfort levels of independence for their children. We want to work together to find a balance of contribution to the Village with the freedom and ability to care for your family.

The Staffing Committee, when reviewing your application, appreciates knowing the positions in which parents are most interested, but may need to be a creative in finding

ways to staff parents so they can also be available for the needs of the family. Staffing position assignments need to take into consideration the ages of the children.

In the current staffing model at Holden, the number of hours parents work depends on the number of adults in the family and the ages of the children. In some cases, this means having a parent in roles that are less than full-time, giving the parent time to care for children outside of the hours that school is in session. You can learn details about the volunteer arrangement for your particular family by contacting the Staffing office.

**Potential Half-Time or 3/4-Time positions:** Contributions Coordinator, Procurement Coordinator, Laundry, Librarian, IT Support, Musician, and various Operations positions. If you have questions about specific positions and the flexibility of work schedules, please contact the Staffing office.

Youth ages 14 and older volunteer five hours a week during the school year in addition to garbology and dish team. Work assignments will be discussed with each individual based on their interest and their level of responsibility. Please talk with staffing upon arrival to determine work assignments for youth ages 14 and older. In the summer months, youths ages 14-17 work half-time—this work area may be the same or different from their work assignment during the school year.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNAL VILLAGE TASKS

All staff members who are at least 12 years old participate in weekly dish team shifts and monthly garbology shifts. All staff members who are at least 18 participate in stoking wood boilers during the winter months. Some living spaces are heated by a stove or boiler stoked by the residents of that building; those living in other spaces will be scheduled to stoke the common boilers located in Lodge 6, Koinonia, and Dante (located behind Chalets 1 and 2).

Children ages 12-17 will typically be assigned to dishteam with a parent. Children ages 12-17 will typically complete their monthly Garbo shift with others from the school.

## BENEFITS AND EXPENSES AT HOLDEN

Holden has long benefited from the generous contributions of people willing to come and give their time, talents, and energy to the Village. On account of valuing the unique experience families bring to the Village community, Holden offers a \$550 monthly stipend for each long-term volunteer to allow volunteers to defray a small portion of the incidental costs that naturally come with volunteering. Parents working in half- or 3/4-time roles are offered a pro-rated stipend. A set number of boat tickets for travels out of the Village for personal days are also provided. Parking a car at Field's Point Landing free of charge is an additional benefit.

Expenses while at Holden are minimal. There is ice cream for sale in the snack bar for a dollar or two. In the summer months, Beanies Coffee Cart offers inexpensive made-to-

order coffee drinks. The Holden store sells gift items, cards, books, CDs, Holden t-shirts, candy, as well as a limited number of toiletries and other necessities.

## PACKING SUGGESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

In addition to the packing guidelines included in the “Getting Ready to Come to Holden Village” document, there are some additional suggestions for those coming to Holden with children for an extended period of time.

- Holden provides: all bed linens, quilts, blankets, and towels; cribs and high chairs; laundry facilities with laundry soap; and cloth diapers, plastic pants, pins, and diaper pails.
- There is an on-site library with a good selection of books for children and young adults. The local public library system also provides mail service.
- Please do not bring toys that require electricity.
- Sleds are provided by the Village, but you may consider bringing your own if your children have a favorite. Snowshoes and cross-country skis are provided for use by members of the community, but sizes designed for children may be limited. Some families bring bikes and helmets for their children.
- There is a playground at the school for families to use throughout the year. In the wintertime, the Village Center (VC) is used as a gym where games like dodge ball and volleyball can happen. The VC is not heated in the winter, so plan your game-playing clothing accordingly.

Children’s toys and other items for children are not always available in the Village. Some families choose to bring most of their children’s toys and belongings while others order items online once they’ve arrived onsite. Some wait until after they arrive to assess needs and purchase items the next time they leave the Village. Knowing that you will have full and complete responsibility for your children and that access to children’s items is difficult, you may want to bring the items that you know will make the time for you and your children most enjoyable.

## VILLAGE ACTIVITY AND SAFETY

While Holden Village is nestled in a panoramic mountain valley that provides great opportunities for families to experience the wonders of nature, the Village can be hazardous as well.

- The terrain of the Village is hilly and rocky.
- In the winter snow paths are uneven and sometimes unstable, which can make mobility difficult for small children.

- Winter hazards of deep snow, tree wells, and roofalanches (when snow falls off of a roof) are dangerous for everyone in the Village, but particularly for children. Roofalanches in particular can happen with very little notice and would cause serious injury or death to anyone caught beneath them, so it is important to carefully select where people walk, play, or build snow forts.
- There is a road through the middle of the Village which trucks, buses, and heavy equipment use to move back and forth through the Village. Drivers go slowly through the Village and are alert to pedestrians, but risks still exist any time vehicles are moving or parked in the Village.
- Vehicles, tools, building materials, paint, and other potential hazards are present in places where children may come into contact with them.
- Railroad Creek is located on the edge of the Village and can have a high and strong current at certain times of the year. Boulders, large rocks, and trees can be attractive for children to climb but may be unsafe depending on the child.
- Shoes should always be worn outside. Lawns may have nails, screws, and other unseen hazards in the grass.
- Shoes must be worn at all times in the Dining Hall, even in the winter when part of the Dining Hall has couches, a pool table, and a ping-pong table. The Dining Hall remains a food service area and proper footwear is required to comply with health code. Additionally, with occasional broken dishes, heavy and hot items being moved around, and a large number of people walking through the Dining Hall, proper footwear can help prevent injuries.

## MEDICAL INFORMATION

The Village has a trained First Response Team and a first aid station equipped to handle basic needs. We do not have a doctor on staff. We attempt to continually have the medic position staffed by either an EMT or a RN. Holden cannot accommodate health conditions that require ongoing care, and because of our isolated location, emergency evacuations are extremely difficult. If you have any questions about coming to Holden because of your family's health status, please contact your doctor and/or write the Village Medic at [medic@holdenvillage.org](mailto:medic@holdenvillage.org) before applying.

## SETTING BOUNDARIES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR CHILDREN (AND THE COMMUNITY)

After arriving in the Village and getting a sense of the rhythms of community and the needs of your family, it can be helpful to outline expectations for your children, and to outline expectations to the community related to your children. Some examples of boundaries articulated by parents have included:

- Physical boundaries on where it is okay for kids to go without an adult (e.g. not near the creek)
- Established check-in times with parents

- Kids not being allowed in a home other than their own unless a parent is present
- Rules around food—what kind of food is okay to get from the Dining Hall without permission (fruit, a glass of milk), and what kind of food for which a parent's permission is necessary (seconds at dinner, a tasty treat offered at Coffee Break)
- Rules around a non-parent spending time with a kid—community members of all ages enjoy being able to spend time and become friends with the kids of the Village, but it's helpful to have expectations around how time is spent (specific times, locations, or activities that are approved or not)
- What to do in case of an emergency or if they need help

**We are excited that your family is considering applying to serve in the Village.  
Blessings on your discernment and preparation!**

**Please be in touch with your questions: [staffing@holdenvillage.org](mailto:staffing@holdenvillage.org)**