



# FAQ's Volunteer Background Checks

## Bloomington Volunteer Network Partner Discount Program

### IS MY ORGANIZATION A VOLUNTEER NETWORK PARTNER?

It's easy to check! If your organization maintains an active profile on the Volunteer Network website - you are a partner. Check your listing online, or contact us to ask about your partnership status.



### WE DON'T RUN CHECKS ON OUR VOLUNTEERS NOW. SHOULD WE START?

There are many components to an effective volunteer risk management and screening process. Background checks are only one - and are not necessary for every volunteer in your program. Read more about the 10 steps of effective screening.

### BUT OUR ORGANIZATION DOES A STATE POLICE CHECK ON OUR VOLUNTEERS, ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?

If you depend solely on a nationwide system (or Indiana's limited criminal history -also known as a State Police Check) to protect your organization, odds are good that you're unwittingly including volunteers in your program who could place your organization at risk.

The Indiana State Police background check runs the individual's name through the National Crime Information Database (NCIC) and the state's database, and reviews the results to see if the candidate has been arrested for any of 28 specific felony offenses. If so, it designates the individual as "disqualified." However, an individual designated as "qualified" under this system could very well have been convicted of a different type of felony or any number of misdemeanors.

Because of the gaps in NCIC and similar national criminal databases, their use should be just one part of a larger screening effort that also delves into county-level criminal searches, federal court data, name changes, and other sources.

### WE HAVE MANY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND UNDOCUMENTED RESIDENTS THAT VOLUNTEER WITH US. HOW CAN I CHECK THEM IF THEY DO NOT HAVE A SS#?

International students - Our government requires extensive checking for students and individuals here on temporary visas. They have done much of the background checking for you - including the criminal & sex offender search! You can certainly run them through the ADVANCED level screening without a SS# to screen them again using their name.

Undocumented residents - An ADVANCED level check can be run without submitting a SS#. It will do everything except the SS# search.

### WE DON'T HAVE THE BUDGET, NO MATTER WHAT PRICE. WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS?

This is a question of risk. Educate yourself about how to evaluate what type of screening your volunteers need and the effectiveness of that screening in revealing a comprehensive criminal background history for your volunteers.

Verified Volunteers gives you the option to share the cost of background screening with your volunteers from 0%-100%. This can cover or help offset the cost of screening for your organization. That said, there are many types of criminal background screening that are absolutely free.

### WHAT IS THE PRICING OFFERED THROUGH THE VOLUNTEER NETWORK AND VERIFIED VOLUNTEERS?

The Volunteer Network has obtained reduced pricing with Verified Volunteers because of our Points of Light affiliate member status. A minimum 20% discount is offered to partner organizations depending on the volume of checks run (this discount applies to the \$19-\$37 standard rate). Contact us for pricing.

### DOES THE VOLUNTEER NETWORK RECEIVE ANY MONEY FROM THIS SYSTEM?

No. The Volunteer Network acts simply as a conduit to a negotiated lower price. The Volunteer Network receives no money or gifts for our role in this offer. Several of our partner organizations asked us to research better options for back ground checks and this is the result of that request.

## City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

City Hall • 401 N. Morton St., Suite 260, Bloomington, IN 47404 • [www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer)

hrs: 8am - 5pm Monday-Friday • ph. 812.349.3433 • fax 812.349.3483 • [volunteer@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:volunteer@bloomington.in.gov)

