

Frequently Asked Questions - Volunteer Hours

Q. My Junior is a new Athlete, and I'm just not following this whole volunteer thing. Help!

A. Sure. From the Membership categories, different membership types generate a different baseline volunteer effort. If you are a parent, but not (or not yet) a rower, your Atomic athlete likely puts you in Category 2, with a 40-hour commitment. That commitment must be satisfied within the fiscal year that runs from August 1 to July 31 of each year. There are many ways to satisfy the volunteer commitment, through volunteering for course work days and regattas, and by working with the Atomic Boosters for up to eight hours each season. Your Family is assigned a unique Membership number. Use of this number ensures that we accurately track your hours. We use something called "Sign Up Genius" to track all of the activities. You'll get a URL through several different ways that we communicate with families, and can browse through the open/filled slots and choose what you want to do.

Q. My neighbor is not an ORRA Member but was kind enough to volunteer on my behalf at a regatta. Other than the cool volunteer t-shirt that my friend received, can their effort be reflected on a Member volunteer account (like mine?)

A. Absolutely. The easiest way is to provide your Membership number to your neighbor in advance. Then, they can grab a shift in Sign Up Genius on your behalf, entering your Membership Number when they sign up, or note the recipient when they check in for a work day or regatta. Our volunteer check-in coordinator has the Member names and numbers for reference. If for some reason this step gets dropped, you'll need to help us cross-reference that volunteer slot to your account.

Q. My [grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, cats and dogs] are planning to be here this weekend and can help out at the regatta. Is this OK?

A. Yes! Sign them up in SignUp Genius, and include your Membership number. This allows us to easily capture these contributions of effort to our regattas.

Q. We're pulling a shift at the regatta this weekend specifically to help with the Atomic Boosters (care and feeding of the Juniors). How are my hours working the Booster tent recognized? Are they different from our family's volunteer commitment that is associated with our membership type?

A. ORRA recognizes and appreciates the time and effort that our parents and families contribute to the care and feeding of our Junior athletes. We have updated our policies to ensure that families can record up to eight (8) hours *per season, per Family for Booster-specific activities*. Sign Up Genius will include both Booster and Event sign ups, so you can simply sign up for a specific Atomic Booster activity and apply your same membership number.

Q. Our family had a 40-hour commitment this fiscal year and we worked a total of 44 volunteer hours. Do we get paid partial credit for those four hours? Is that part of a premier credit? Can we transfer those hours after the fact to another family to satisfy their baseline hour commitment? Can we transfer those hours after the fact to another family to help them achieve a premier credit?

A. ORRA's members frequently exceed their baseline hours in service to the organization. To recognize these volunteer efforts, we define *Premier Credits* as volunteer hours above the baseline, and reward those premier credits in terms of credits against your account. These credits are only financially awarded in discrete units of 32-hours above the initial baseline, so the extra four hours would be acknowledged and appreciated, but would not generate any additional credits to a Family's account. Similarly, ORRA does not allow these above-baseline hours to be assigned to another Family's above-baseline account.

Q. Our Family had premier credits this year, and our account reflects a positive balance. Is there any cash value for this credit?

A. While that balance can be applied to any programmatic cost, there is no cash value for premier credits.