

# Youth Volunteer Program Guide

Cultivating a Community of Forest Stewards  
through Invasive Plant Workdays



2022



Produced as a collaboration between  
VT Dept. Forests, Parks & Recreation  
and Winooski Valley Park District



# Helpful Hints

When first starting to run invasive plant workdays or programs, consider working with smaller groups (like one class rather than a whole school). As you get more experienced, you can consider scaling up.

Communicate expectations for group leaders, participants, and your invasive plant “experts”, including that they must be there through the whole workday or program.

For larger groups:

- **The chaperones** play a key role in supporting subgroups, as an extra set of eyes to ensure everyone is staying together and working safely, and are responsible for any corrective measures.
  - When working with schools:
    - School aides should **not** be counted as chaperones, as their focus is generally on only one or a few of the participants.
    - It is helpful to have a roving teacher/chaperone who stays near the central meeting area to manage the first aid and supervise participants as they get water or snacks.
- It can be challenging to find invasive plant “experts” who are comfortable with both restoration work AND youth volunteer management.
  - Try having the chaperones (rather than the invasive plant “experts”) lead the activities — this can alleviate some stress on the invasive plant “experts” and can also help keep chaperones engaged in the whole activity which adds to the participants’ experience.



# You Can Make A Difference!

VTinvasives.org



For questions about this guide  
please contact:

[anr.fprInvasivePlants@vermont.gov](mailto:anr.fprInvasivePlants@vermont.gov)

or

[info@wvpd.org](mailto:info@wvpd.org)

Latest update: April 2022