

Hello Elves & Costume Characters over 13!

Thank you so very much for volunteering for Christmas Storybook Land! We are so looking forward to working with all of you at this year's event. Moving forward, we are doing things differently! Our goal is to provide family friendly fun that engages everyone and provides an interactive experience that leaves fond memories in the hearts of our guests!

Important notice:

1. **Volunteers 13 to 17** are required to register before participating at Christmas Storybook Land. See christmasstorybookland.org/volunteer, to register.
2. **Volunteers age 13 to 17** must have the **Parent/Guardian Release for Volunteers under 18** Form submitted. See form at christmasstorybookland.org under Volunteer – Guidelines and Forms.
3. **Adult elves & costume characters – 18 or over** – must be registered online and successfully pass a **Background Check** as directed by our liability insurance carrier. Complete and submit the Background Check allowing about 2 weeks for processing. See [Christmasstorybookland.org](https://christmasstorybookland.org) under Volunteer - Guidelines and Forms. You are also required to attend the character volunteer training.
4. **All Character Volunteers** MUST attend the volunteer character training. If under 18, parents/guardians are **ALSO REQUIRED** to attend the training, even if they are not volunteering. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** If you **AND** your parent/guardian cannot attend, you cannot volunteer. At that training, you will be choosing your costume so that when the time comes, your costume will be ready to go. A date for training will be given during the Volunteer sign up event in the early fall. If you sign up to volunteer before then, you will be notified via email as to when the training will be. If you have a previous commitment on the training day, please let Cherita Wilson know ASAP.
5. Please be advised that you will be photographed by attendees who will potentially be posting pictures of you on social media or other outlets.



DUTIES:

Arrival/Departure: Please come to Storybook Land 30 minutes before your shift starts and enter the back door marked Christmas Storybook Land Volunteers. Then proceed to the dressing room located behind the scenes within the building. A CSBL Costume Coordinator will be on hand to check your costume out and check your costume back in once you're done with your shift. Please do not leave the fairgrounds until you have checked out your costume.

BREAKS: All shifts are three hours in length. You're able to take a 15-minute break after the first and second hour to grab a warm drink and a snack. Please use the restroom BEFORE you start your shift. Seeing a fairy or teddy bear coming out of a toilet stall ruins the magic for guests. Bathroom breaks are for EMERGENCY only. The CSBL costume coordinator will come to let you know when break time is and will be checking on you periodically to make sure you don't need anything during your shift.

Costumes/Decorum: The Costumes that you will be able to choose from will be Fairies, Elves, classic storybook characters, Pirates, Mermaids, and various Mascots. (They are amazing for keeping warm in the cold building BTW) You will be given specific duties for whichever character you choose. For example, if you're a Mermaid, you get to sit in a specific spot, and play with a hand-held bubble maker, and of course, take ALL the pics with the kids. If you're a fairy, you may have some "fairy dust" to sprinkle on the kids as you walk around. Elves get to pass out fun gifts, and play with jingle bells, etc.

Depending on which costume you choose, we ask that you provide makeup, leggings, and black flats, or shoes or boots for your character. No tennis shoes unless they match your costume. Meaning, fairies don't wear tennis shoes, but an elf could get away with it. Hair should be styled to reflect your character and accessories are also encouraged! If you're a mascot, you can wear whatever you wish, but be mindful that it does get warm in the costume--even in the cold building.

You are here to volunteer, and this experience is both fun AND rewarding! You get to have fun interactions with the children, and families that come to experience the magic of the holiday season! You will be expected to interact with the families, and you will be given props and other things to assist with that. Acting is not required but if you're an actor or actress and you want to play your part, we WANT you to do it!



Candy canes: SANTA ONLY is allowed to hand out candy canes. Elves do not hand out candy canes. Do not hand out candy canes to people waiting in the line to see Santa. We pre-order candy canes before the event and will not be able to get more if we run out.

Cell phones: Cell phones are not allowed out on the floor at ANY time while you are in costume. THIS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED. Phones must be stored discreetly on your person OR kept in the costume changing area with your belongings. Remember you are **a** portraying a character and it ruins the “magic” if you’re texting, taking selfies, or checking your phone for messages, etc. If there is an emergency and you must take a call/text, please go to the break room. Any selfies that you want to take while in costume should be done BEFORE you go on the floor.

Transportation: Everyone must provide their own transportation. Due to liability, we cannot provide you a ride to or home from the event. Please do not put Christmas Storybook Land in this unacceptable position.

Unable to make your shift: We completely understand that emergencies and illnesses happen. If for whatever reason you are unable to make your shift, please text Cherita Wilson at 541- 829-2133 or Carol Wood at 541-974-5066.

CONTACT INFO:

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to text/call Cherita Wilson at 541-829-2133.

