

Pittsburg State University

When Are Gorilla Students Available to Volunteer?

A volunteer planning guide for community partners using Gorilla Action

Best rule of thumb: Post opportunities 2–3 weeks in advance, offer flexible ways to participate, and avoid finals or academic breaks when possible.

Students balance classes, jobs, organizations, athletics, exams, and travel. Evenings, weekends, and short shifts are often easier for students to fit into their schedules.

Helpful planning tip: Many students may only be able to volunteer for about an hour at a time, especially between classes, work, practices, and meetings.

Quick Glance: Student Availability

Easier Times to Recruit

September – early October
February – early March
Late March – April
Early weeks of each semester
Evenings, weekends, and short shifts

Harder Times to Recruit

Finals weeks: Early December and May
Breaks: Thanksgiving, winter, spring, and summer
Major campus weeks: Homecoming, Greek Games, Go Pitt Week
End-of-semester projects, exams, and travel
Daytime hours or long shifts with little flexibility

Student Availability by Season

Use this seasonal view to decide when to post, promote, and schedule opportunities. Exact dates vary each year, so check PSU's academic and events calendars before planning time-sensitive events.

Time of Year	What's Happening	Planning Guidance
August–early October	Students return, set schedules, and look for ways to get involved.	Strong time to post and promote opportunities.
Mid-October–December	Homecoming, midterms, Thanksgiving, projects, and finals.	Recruit early; expect slower response later in the semester.
January–early March	Spring semester begins; students are building routines again.	Good time to launch recurring or short-term opportunities.
Mid-March–April	Spring Break, then several weeks of regular semester activity.	Avoid break week; late March and April can work well.
May–August	Finals, Commencement, summer break, jobs, internships, and travel.	Expect lower student availability, especially during summer.

Tips for Working with Student Schedules

Post early. Give students time to check schedules, compare options, and commit.

Offer flexible options. Evening, weekend, one-hour, recurring, or short-shift opportunities are often easier for students to fit around classes, work, practices, and meetings.

Consider athletic seasons. Student-athletes may have limited availability during their competitive seasons because of practices, travel, and competitions.

Make it easy to say yes. Include the location, date, time, duties, dress expectations, parking information, contact person, and whether training is required.

Explain the impact. Students are more likely to participate when they understand who they are helping and why the work matters.

Ready to Reach Students?

The Service & Civic Engagement team can help organizations create clear Gorilla Action postings, choose student-friendly timing, and make volunteer roles easy to understand.

Visit <https://pittstate.galaxydigital.com/agency/signup/> to register your organization & get started!