



Spring, 2017

Dear Team Leaders:

Preparations are underway for the 2017 Ramp It Up Build Season! I look forward to once again working with those of you who have volunteered previously and would like to briefly introduce myself to those of you who are new to Ramp It Up.

Some call me “Ramping Robert,” and others refer to me as “Bob the Builder,” but most know me as Bob Bundy, retired educator and Ramp It Up Coordinator. My thirty-six years of experience in New York State Public Schools as a teacher, coach and administrator have taught me that engaging young people in meaningful service to others is life changing for them and for those they serve. A day working together to build a ramp, is a day very well spent!

Here are a couple of excerpts from letters written by ramp recipients:

“They did an excellent job and I am extremely happy. I now can get out of the house easily and even sit on the ramp and enjoy it.”

“Thank you all so very much for my wonderful ramp! My life has become so much easier and safer because of your kindness and generosity. It’s great to know that there are still people in this world who care for others.”

Ramp building, is indeed, a heartwarming and worthwhile experience for all, but it is also very costly. Most of our ramp recipients lack the funds to contribute to the cost of materials, and for this reason, we ask you to please seriously consider making fund raising a part of your service to Ramp It Up. Teams who engage in fund raising can have an even greater impact on our program, since the number of ramps we build is directly related to our budget. The average cost of ramp construction materials is \$2,225.00. Fund raising resources are available from The Council by contacting Mike Leahey, Director of Development, at 724-9130 x 306, or by emailing mleahy@broomecouncil.net

Finally, I would like to inform you of some changes being implemented in 2017. The first is regarding personnel. Bill Austin, who was an invaluable assistant during the 2016 season, has agreed to serve as a site supervisor this year. Bill and I will work together to plan and coordinate builds, and to supervise construction.

The remaining changes have to do with the team application/build process:

Background checks have been streamlined. A new streamlined and cost effective vetting process has been implemented by The Council. Teams need only provide the first and last names of its adult volunteers, (age 18 or older), on the Team Registration Form.

Paperwork for your team has been reduced. Adult volunteers are only required to complete and sign the Volunteer Liability Release. Youth volunteers must complete **both** the Youth Volunteer Application **AND** the Volunteer Liability Release. The latter must be signed by a parent/guardian. **All paperwork is due 3 weeks before your scheduled build date.**

Team size is limited to a total of 12 volunteers. Teams should consist of 8 youth volunteers, ages 13–17, and 4 adults over the age of 18. This ratio is the most safe and effective for our build sites. If you are blessed with a larger number of volunteers, please plan on working in shifts or volunteering for an additional build.

Builds require approximately 1.5 days of consecutive service, and are not limited to weekends.

Day 1 begins at 4:00 p.m. at the build site to receive and organize building materials, review the build plan, and install the first section of ramp frame. Adult volunteers should plan to attend this session. We encourage you to bring any youth able to attend. This session concludes around 7:00 p.m.

Day 2 begins at 8:00 a.m. the following morning. Please bring lunch, water, and refreshments for your team. (Teams also often bring dining canopies for shade.) All team members must wear Ramp It Up T-shirts and closed toe shoes. The Site Supervisor will orient the team, review safety guidelines, and assign tasks. Teams should plan to stay until the ramp is completed, the site cleaned up and a Team photo taken. In the event of heavy rain or thunderstorms, the build will conclude prior to completion.

Thank you for your willingness to engage in this life-changing experience. Together we can make an impact on our community and provide a rich learning opportunity for young people. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

rbundy@broomecouncil.net 607.724.9130 ext. 323

I look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Bob Bundy
Ramp It Up Coordinator
Faith in Action Volunteers

Enclosures:

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