



Spring, 2018

Dear Team Leaders:

Preparations are underway for the 2018 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:

“All the volunteers were great. The youth volunteers were very respectful and worked very hard. I thank you again. Now my husband can get in his wheelchair and hopefully not fall anymore.”

“I came home in September from the hospital and rehab after a spinal cord injury. My house was inaccessible. I needed a ramp and found the Ramp It Up program. Plans for a June build were made. When the date was set it sank in that this was real. But I didn’t know what it meant! I was picturing some planks nailed together to get me off the porch. Boy was I wrong. You built a huge addition to my life, not just a way to get out of the house. It’s a way to enjoy the outdoors again, expand my living space, get the exercise I need and most importantly, it’s given me some optimism about the future.”

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

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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 Sue Spencer, Faith In Action Director, at 724-9130 x 304, or by emailing sspencer@broomecouncil.net.

Finally, I would like to inform you of some changes being implemented in 2018.

The first is regarding tools and equipment. Through the generosity of Good Shephard Communities Foundation the program has updated the majority of its tools and equipment.

Bill Austin, will continue 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:

The Volunteer Liability Release Form has been incorporated into the Team Registration and the Ramp It Up Youth Volunteer Application. This will eliminate the need to have an individual sheet for each of your adult and youth volunteers. With a full team this will reduce your paper work by 12 sheets.

Online fillable forms. The Council is currently working on making all of the forms necessary to register your team with online, fillable forms. At this writing we are not quite there yet, but it is being worked on. Prior to complete your paper work please take a minute to check the website at Broome County Council of Churches>Ramp It Up>2018 Team Registration Packet.

In forming your team and getting them registered please keep the following in mind the following.

Please review the Team Leader Checklist of Required Paperwork for submission deadlines.

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:

Team Leader Checklist of Required Paperwork (1)
Team Registration (1)
2018 Ramp It Up Proposed Build Dates (1)
Pastor/Officer Letter of Commitment (1)
Ramp It Up Youth Volunteer Application (8)
Team Suggestions (1)
Ramp It Up Brochures (15)