WELCOME BACK GRYPHONS!

Thank you for your interest in joining Safewalk for the 2023-2024 academic year! In this package, you’ll learn more about how our service works, what it means to be a SafeWalk volunteer, and the next steps you’ll need to take to join our service.

WHAT IS SAFEWALK?

SafeWalk is one of the many services provided by your Central Student Association. Our goal is to ensure that students, staff, and visitors can safely and comfortably cross the University of Guelph campus at night. Though the number of volunteers has varied over the years, SafeWalk generally has over 50 Gryphons on its roster, each one hoping to have a positive impact on our campus!
As a SafeWalk volunteer, you'll be expected to perform approximately 2-4 shifts a month of the three types that we run. The three shift types run by SafeWalk are referred to as Early (7:30pm-11:00pm), Late (11:00pm-2:30am), and Modified (10:00pm-1:30am) shifts. The duties you’re expected to perform are the same in each shift type, with slight variations. A general outline of an early shift can be seen below:

- Arrive at the SafeWalk office located on the second floor of the UC at 7:25 pm to begin preparing for your shift.
- Open the office, sign in, and place the banner outside the office in view of the UC window.
- Check the SafeWalk cellphone to ensure it is switched on and working properly. Test it by dialing the SafeWalk number from your personal cellphone to ensure calls are going through.
- Send an email reminder to the volunteers scheduled for the next day’s Early Shift. Contact information for all our volunteers and coordinators can be found in the office.
- Perform a walk around the campus, following the route created by SafeWalk, including a stop inside the library. Don’t forget to wear one of our signature SafeWalk jackets!
- While in the office, you can work on any assignments you might have, chat with your shift partner, listen to music, or any other activity that can safely be performed within the SafeWalk office.
- If you receive a call on shift, be sure to ask the caller their name, where they are, where they would like to go, and whether they would prefer you to wear or not wear the SafeWalk jackets.
- When the volunteers for the Late shift arrive, relay any important information and complete the after-shift check-in.

SafeWalk works best when we’re all working together, and our volunteers and Coordinators are very understanding of individual circumstances. If at any time you have concerns, are feeling over-committed, or need to take a step back, you can reach out to our Coordinators via email or during their office hours to discuss your role within SafeWalk. Though this is not an excuse to take advantage of the benefits while not participating, we understand that life gets in the way and are happy to work with you to make your volunteering experience an enjoyable one!
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING FOR SAFEWALK?

SafeWalk is a great, low commitment way to give back to the University of Guelph community and get some volunteering experience. SafeWalk volunteers enjoy a number of perks, including complementary beverage coupons to be used in hospitality services on campus, a reliable method of transportation home for each Late Shift completed (11:00pm-2:30am), and monthly draws. In addition to the benefits provided by volunteering regularly, we will be hosting events and team-building exercises throughout the year for SafeWalk personnel. Volunteers who provide consistent and exceptional service will also be eligible for reference letters. We’re here to support the University of Guelph community, and that means you too!

CAN I CHOOSE TO ONLY VOLUNTEER FOR ONE SEMESTER?

Of course! We encourage you to stay with us all year round as we have many fun events planned, but we understand that situations change and will never force you to remain on the team.

I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS, WHO CAN I TALK TO?

If you have any questions about the information outlined above, you can contact this year’s SafeWalk Coordinator Max Mancuso at safewalk@uoguelph.ca, or our Safewalk Volunteer Coordinator Avneet Grewal at swvol@uoguelph.ca.
As a Safewalk volunteer, you will be expected to sign-up for shifts regularly (a minimum of 2-4 a month) throughout the school year. Your participation in events hosted by SafeWalk or requiring volunteer presence is not mandatory, though it is heavily encouraged! If you are interested in applying, please provide the following in your application:

1. Name
2. Program
3. School Email
4. Paragraph explaining how you learned about SafeWalk, why you would like to become a SafeWalk volunteer, and any relevant volunteering or work experience you may have.
5. Any accommodations you may require
6. Any questions you may have

Save your responses in a word or PDF format and send it along to our SafeWalk Coordinator (at safewalk@uoguelph.ca) or our SafeWalk Volunteer Coordinator (at swvol@uoguelph.ca), with “SafeWalk 2023-2024 Volunteer Application” in the subject line. Once your application has been received and reviewed by our coordinators, they will contact you to set up an interview to be conducted via Microsoft Teams.
A FINAL NOTE

It is important to remember that as a SafeWalk volunteer, you will be acting as the face of the organization. Your actions while on-shift are a direct reflection of our service and the support we provide in the University of Guelph community. Harassment of any kind will **NOT** be tolerated and will be met with immediate expulsion from the service.

Lastly, by sending in your application, you acknowledge that ALL statements made in the application are **TRUE** and that any **FALSE** or **MISLEADING** information provided by you may result in the rejection of your application or in your dismissal from SafeWalk, should you be accepted as a volunteer.

***All information provided by you during the application process will be kept confidential.***

We thank you again for your interest and look forward to hearing from you!

**HAVE A GREAT YEAR**

**GRYPHONS!**