So you want to be Bob Ross?

Painting is one of the best ways to completely transform a space. We can take a plain bathroom and turn it into a colorful, pleasant experience; or a wall that’s been tagged and turn it into a community project. But, as anyone who has painted on a large scale before knows, there’s much more prep, planning, and execution methods than initially expected. All too often do volunteers create a beautiful landscape of birds, butterflies, and flowers only to take the stencil off and reveal just a splotch of paint. We want you to be proud of your work and set you up for success—so we’ve created this guide for you to know what to expect when beginning a painting project, and some things to think about before your workday.

A few rules of thumb when considering a painting project for your group:

- Our painting projects are geared toward those 18 and older but can also be considered on a case by case basis.
- Painting is best for smaller groups (5-10 volunteers) but larger projects may be available.
- At any time of the year, you may express interest in a painting project with your group; the main factor in scheduling is if there is an appropriate project within a park space. If your heart is set on painting, we will always try our best!! We can usually have a project identified up to two weeks before your scheduled date, but there can sometimes be a higher priority project that may not involve painting that needs to be addressed and could benefit from volunteer energy.
What to expect

When you arrive, we’ll have everyone sign in and we’ll gather around to provide some background information about GIVE365 and Ann Arbor’s Parks and Recreation Department. We’ll also lead the group in an icebreaker or group activity. Then, we’ll get into some more instructions of best painting practices and show you the stencil options that we have. You’ll then practice on some cardboard before getting started on your masterpiece.

What to wear

Comfortable, movable clothing that you don’t mind if you get paint on. Some areas are close to the ground, while others may require a ladder to reach. So, any clothing you can move around in is recommended! We will provide a GIVE365 t-shirt to put over your clothing, but paint can and will drip on shoes and pants. Gloves will be provided to protect your hands.

What we bring

Paint, brushes, stencils, tarps, tape, gloves, and all other supplies.

What you bring

A reusable water bottle, creative mindset, weather appropriate clothing. That’s all!

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