



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION

Volunteer Core Leader Application

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in California State Parks Foundation's volunteer program! Since 2010, our year-round volunteer program has provided meaningful volunteer opportunities for Californians to help their state parks. Currently, we plan more than 100 volunteer workdays a year across California. These workdays are led by Volunteer Core Leader teams.

Requirements

- Participate in three California State Parks Foundation volunteer workdays.
- Complete a background check paid for by California State Parks Foundation.
- Attend mandatory trainings, which include:
 - New Volunteer Core Leader Training (virtual)
 - Watch the “Co-creating a Culture of Belonging” video recording and submit a survey following completion
 - Annual Volunteer Core Leader meeting (virtual)
- Review our [Justice Equity Inclusion and Diversity \(JEID\) Commitments](#).
- Join regional check-in meetings as needed.
- Work with a team of Volunteer Core Leaders.
- Lead a minimum of three volunteer workdays per year.

While not a requirement, we are also looking for Volunteer Core Leaders who:

- Speak multiple languages.
- Have deep ties in their local community.
- Have an interest in community outreach and promoting workdays.
- Have strong knowledge or an interest in learning about California native plants, habitat restoration, trail work, and/or general park maintenance projects.

Volunteer Core Leader Overview

Volunteer Core Leaders serve as ambassadors for the organization, representing our mission and values at every workday. They play a vital role in building a strong volunteer community by creating a welcoming, motivating, and appreciative experience for all participants. Volunteer Core Leaders work closely with California State Parks Foundation staff and park partners to plan, coordinate, and lead meaningful volunteer experiences that directly support our parks.

They build relationships with park staff, learn the unique culture and needs of their parks, and collaborate with fellow Volunteer Core Leaders to ensure every workday runs smoothly.

Volunteer Core Leader Roles

Volunteer Core Leaders are dedicated volunteers who help lead, support, and strengthen our park community. Whether you prefer being front and center or working behind the scenes, there's a role that fits your skills and interests.

Please check all roles you are interested in:

Lead

Leads are individuals who can serve as the primary representative of the organization at a workday, working alongside park staff. They are comfortable managing the full scope of a workday responsibilities, which may include:

- Coordinating event logistics with program and park staff
 - Setting up and managing volunteer registration
 - Giving morning orientation and announcements
 - Purchasing or coordinating food and supplies
 - Taking event photos and sharing them for CSPF use
 - Submitting post-event reports, waivers, and metrics
- Serving as a Crew Leader when projects split into smaller groups

While Leads can manage a workday independently if needed, they are typically supported by other Volunteer Core Leaders.

Support

Support Core Leaders work as part of a team, assisting a Lead and park staff to ensure a workday runs smoothly. They help with welcoming volunteers, guiding small groups during projects, and stepping in where needed to make the day successful.

Cause Connector (virtual opportunity)

Cause Connectors help spread the word about upcoming events. They promote workdays by sharing flyers in the local community, posting them on social media, and representing the organization at community events. This role does not require you to attend workdays.

Corporate Lead

Corporate Leads are individuals who can serve as the primary representative of the organization at a corporate volunteer event, working alongside park staff. They are comfortable managing the full scope of an event, including public speaking, registration, any additional customized team-building or educational components, and all post-event reporting and follow-up tasks. While they can lead alone if needed, they will usually have support leaders. Corporate workdays are typically scheduled during the week (Monday - Friday).

Corporate Support

Corporate Support Core Leaders are part of a team, working alongside a Corporate Lead and park staff to help a corporate volunteer event run smoothly. They assist with tasks such as welcoming participants, guiding small groups during projects, supporting additional team-building or educational activities, and stepping in where needed to ensure the event is successful. This role will require additional training at a future date that highlights the corporate workday experience. Corporate workdays are typically scheduled during the week (Monday - Friday).

Volunteer Core Leader Application Questions

Name:

Mailing Address:

Phone number(s):

E-mail:

Preferred shirt size (*shirts will be mailed to you as part of a welcome package after you complete training*):

Do you speak any languages other than English? If yes, please list:

Parks or regions where you would like to lead workdays:

Days of the week you would be available to lead events (most workdays are on weekends):

How do you hope to make an impact as a Volunteer Core Leader? (Maximum of 500 words, please.)

References: If you remember their names, please list the Volunteer Core Leaders or staff members that you have met on workdays you have attended.

Criminal Record

If you have a record of convictions for offenses other than minor traffic citations, please give details in the chart below. Also, list any arrests for which you are currently out on bail or out on your recognizance, pending trial. If the answer is "NONE", write it across the first line and sign your name at the end of the application.

CONVICTIONS/ARRESTS PENDING TRIAL:

Date, City & State of Arrest	Charge or reason given by police for arrest	Date and location of trial	Explanation (optional)

Agreements:

I certify that the information I provided on this application form is true to the best of my knowledge.

I also acknowledge that as an ambassador of the organization I will be expected to be collaborative and respectful in all interactions with volunteers, park staff, and program staff. I will adhere to the values California State Parks Foundation shares around [Justice, Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity \(JEID\)](#) and help create a welcoming and safe space for volunteers and park visitors from all backgrounds.

Signature _____

Date _____