Volunteer, Internship and Work Readiness Programs

Fiscal Year 2019 Activities Summary
Human Resources Department
“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in”

DR. SYED MUHAMMAD ZEESHAN HUSSAIN ALMASHHADI
Volunteer, internship and work readiness opportunities cultivate civic engagement and participation

Volunteers enhance services to the public while internships build skills and provide work experience for students enrolled in academic programs.
Volunteers help...

...to enhance the City's parks, lakes and beaches as Park Beautification volunteers.

...young students as homework coaches in the City's 36 libraries.

...provide support as part of community safety initiatives as RSVP members.
FY 2019 Citywide Totals

Volunteers
- 23,411 volunteers
- 296,281 hours served

Paid Interns
- 200 interns (paid)
- 71,449 hours served

Unpaid Interns
- 144 interns (unpaid)
- 27,911 hours served

Mentees
- 535 mentees
- 29,402 hours served

Total Volunteers: 24,090
Total Hours Served: 354,850
Total Value: $10,379,362.50

Hourly Value per IndependentSector.org: $29.25
Top 5 Departments With The Most Volunteers

- Parks and Recreation: 88%
- Library: 7%
- City Attorney: 1%
- Police Department: 2%
- Fire Rescue: 3%
Top 5 Departments With The Most Hours Served

- Parks and Recreation: 44%
- Police Department: 27%
- Library: 17%
- City Attorney: 7%
- Public Utilities: 5%
Volunteers assist in various roles and programs, such as Recreation Program Assistance, the LEADER Academy, and Park Crew Mission Trails.

- Volunteers: 21,249
- Amount of Hours Served: 161,699
- Interns: 18
- Mentees: 71
Beautification volunteers help keep City of San Diego open spaces, neighborhood parks, recreation center playground areas, developed regional parks and San Diego shoreline parks clean, beautiful and welcoming.

Volunteers remove litter or overgrown brush, remove non-native plants or help to plant and mulch native plants.
Therapeutic Recreation Services (TRS) provides therapeutic recreation programs for children and adults with any type of disability.

Volunteers work with participants on social and recreational skill development, leisure education and recreation participation in inclusive environments.
Volunteers assist in different initiatives such as the Summer Lunch Assistance Program and the Homework Assistance Program.
The READ San Diego Adult Literacy Program volunteers transform the lives of adult learners by giving them the skills and love of reading that will serve them for a lifetime.

Volunteer literacy tutors assist adult learners in building essential reading and writing skills.
Library beautifiers help keep the library neat and orderly so that it is ready to be enjoyed by all.

Storyteller volunteers take children on adventures and journeys, thrill them with wonder and excitement, and stimulate their imagination through the art of storytelling.
Volunteers help public safety through programs such as the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Fire-Rescue Department Cadet Program.
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers learn how to prepare emergency supplies, perform basic medical treatment and conduct safe searches to make communities better prepared for emergencies.

CERT San Diego help citizens become a part of the solution in their own communities.
The San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Cadet Program teaches youth about a career in fire suppression and emergency medical services.

The program has trained 10,000 youth since its inception.
Volunteers participate in programs such as the Crisis Interventionists and Police Reserves and the Volunteers in Policing (VIP) programs.
The R.S.V.P (Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol) Program promotes community awareness and helps San Diego citizens feel safe.

Volunteers and mentees assist area stations increase the level of crime prevention programs by providing additional resources to the Police Department.
The San Diego Police Department Cadet Program provides youth interested in a career in law enforcement experience by going on ride-alongs, assisting with security and traffic control, and working undercover. Cadets receive continuous law enforcement training, develop individual potential, and meet others their age with similar interests.
Volunteers and interns provide support to the Family Justice Center and services to the Civil and Criminal Divisions
Criminal and Civil Legal Interns are supervised by Deputy City Attorneys and assist in drafting pleadings and research.

Interns gain valuable experience and give back to the community by providing critical support to their respective Unit.
The Family Justice Center provides comprehensive services to anyone who has experienced domestic violence, family violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, or sex trafficking.

Volunteers aid in meeting the needs of clients and helping survivors of violence and their children heal and move on with their lives.
Volunteers assist in the beautification of the City's lake reservoirs and participate in special projects such as the Lake Murray Beautification Project.
Environmental Enhancement Volunteers support litter abatement, environmental protection and fishing program activities at the City’s reservoir lakes.

Volunteers contribute to the beautification of the City’s reservoirs for everyone to enjoy and benefit from.
The Management Intern assists the Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Division by completing various special short-term projects and providing administrative assistance. Interns improve overall productivity in the division and give gain valuable work experience.
"From the very first day, I was greeted by everyone with cheerful smiles and welcoming words. My supervisors were encouraging and helpful. I remember thinking to myself what a fantastic work environment I got to be a part of."

Intern from Criminal Justice Department

"Every day is something new and exciting. This internship has taught me so many lessons – everything from practical life skills to faxing reports to learning about our government’s court system. I am so grateful for the opportunity I have been given through the city attorney’s office, and I would recommend this fabulous internship to anyone who wants to get involved with their city."

Intern from Criminal Justice Department
Testimonials

"This internship opportunity has provided me with exceptional training for basic water quality monitoring and the prevention of pollution in our storm drain systems. Every individual who I have had the pleasure of working with, has been able to answer every question I've had as well as provide me with valuable knowledge from their own personal experiences."

- Intern from Transportation and Storm Water Department

"My time at EMTS has given me valuable, holistic experience in the field of environmental monitoring and compliance. It has also shown me the importance of resolving issues as a team. I'm grateful for the time I've had with the City and the incredible people I get to work with."

- Intern from Public Utilities Department
Interns Serve in...

Office of the Mayor
Interns in the Mayor’s office have an opportunity to organize and better understand procedures in a government office. Their service is essential to help connect and inform citizens of mayoral initiatives and priorities.

Economic Development Department
Interns help build capacity in specific areas of the city, like the San Diego Promise Zone. They receive exposure to economic development concepts, including urban policy and sustainability.

Environmental Services Department
Interns participate in a variety of projects, such as the implementation of the Zero Waste Plan and Climate Action Plan. Interns participate in public outreach efforts and help the City reach its sustainability goals.

Office of Homeland Security
Interns gain experience in emergency procedure manuals, training curriculum development, materials and delivery, inventory databases/maintenance, and program development.

Corporate Partnerships and Development
Interns help establish strategic partnerships to cultivate a sustainable dynamic economy and create community development opportunities.

Human Resources Department
Interns provide project support related to Better Impact volunteer management software, recognition, special events, reports, research and social media management. Interns help build capacity for the department of Human Resources.

City Council
Interns in City Council offices help people of the city better understand council policies and priorities in council districts. Their efforts help citizens engage, connect and thrive in their communities.

Department of Finance
Interns receive the opportunity to learn a variety of duties performed such as reviewing the Grant Master Data report and researching new Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements.

Development Services
Interns support special programs to better serve internal and external customers, as well as learn about construction, code enforcement, wireless communication, and historical resources.
Questions?

Email us at volunteersd@sandiego.gov or workreadiness@sandiego.gov

Interested in our volunteer, internship, or work readiness opportunities?

Visit us at sandiego.gov/volunteer-program