

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

VETERANS SERVICES DIVISION

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## California Veteran Reintegration Program Fact Sheet Volunteer Services

### Volunteer Opportunities for Veterans

Communities across the country are growing stronger because veterans are finding ways to apply their skills and leadership at home. Whether you have one day to give, or you are looking for a long-term role of service, there is an opportunity for you to report for duty in your community.

### Team Rubicon

Is it a disaster relief organization? A veteran-focused enterprise? The truth is it's both Team Rubicon Serves a Dual Mission. Team Rubicon sees its mission as twofold: using veterans to improve disaster response while using disasters as an opportunity to serve again. Team Rubicon unites the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders to rapidly deploy emergency response teams. To view volunteer projects in the area, volunteer, or donate, go to <http://www.teamrubiconusa.org/>

### The Mission Continues

A Mission Continues Fellowship involves 20 hours of service per week for 26 weeks at a local nonprofit organization. Fellows are encouraged to choose a nonprofit organization to serve based on their own personal passions. Current and Alumni Fellows have worked at organizations addressing issues ranging from disaster preparedness to education for low-income youth to training service dogs for wounded veterans. These host organizations include Habitat for Humanity, American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

In 2013, The Mission Continues introduced a new way for veterans to continue serving at home – the service platoon. A service platoon is a team of veterans, active duty service members, guardsmen and reservists that mobilizes together to solve a specific challenge in their community. To view volunteer projects in the area, volunteer, or donate, go to <https://www.missioncontinues.org/>

### Volunteer Opportunities for Veterans and Civilians

Our Veterans put everything on the line to protect our freedom. We may never be able to repay them for their sacrifice, but we can show them just how much we appreciate all that they've done.

Everyone can do something to show Veterans know how much we appreciate their service. What will you do?

HONORING CALIFORNIA'S VETERANS

## **The Mission Continues**

Join With Others for a Day of Service

There is no better way to bring a community together than by enabling them to serve alongside one another. Service missions are single or multi-day projects that allow veterans and civilians to serve together. Volunteers at a service mission may build a playground in an under-resourced community, plant a community garden or renovate a school that serves at-risk youth. To view volunteer projects in the area, volunteer, or donate, go to <https://www.missioncontinues.org/>

## **Disabled American Veterans (DAV)**

DAV offers a wide range of opportunities for individuals who want to make good on the commitment we've given our nation's heroes. Volunteer at our nation's VA hospitals drive veterans to appointments or provide specialized help based on individual needs. No matter who you are, or what your level of experience, you can stand by our nation's veterans. To view volunteer projects in the area, volunteer, or donate, go to <http://www.dav.org/help-dav/volunteer/volunteer-locally-help-the-va/>

## **Paralyzed Veterans of America**

Paralyzed Veterans of America volunteers do invaluable work that makes a real difference to veterans, their communities and Paralyzed Veterans' chapters. Becoming a Paralyzed Veterans volunteer has never been easier. Each PVA chapter offers its own volunteer program with a variety of opportunities to contribute, plus you can commit to as many hours as you choose. [Find the PVA chapter](#) closest to you. To view volunteer projects in the area, volunteer, or donate, go to [http://www.pva.org/site/c.ajlRK9NJLcJ2E/b.7535477/k.7D0E/Volunteer\\_Opportunities.htm](http://www.pva.org/site/c.ajlRK9NJLcJ2E/b.7535477/k.7D0E/Volunteer_Opportunities.htm)

## **American Legion**

The American Legion is dedicated to improving support for active duty service members and veterans during their time of transition and rehabilitation and will continue to provide members with volunteer opportunities. To view volunteer projects in the area, volunteer, or donate, go to <http://www.legion.org/volunteers>

## **Volunteers of America**

Today, each year Volunteers of America touches the lives of more than 2 million people in over 400 communities in 46 states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico through programs that are staffed by full-time, paid professionals who have adopted this same ideal of service as their full-time mission. However, that does not mean that we do not also depend on an army of modern-day "volunteers" who offer their free time to support our volunteer programs nationwide. In fact, in 2013 more than 55,000 volunteers devoted more than one million hours to hundreds of Volunteers of America programs and activities nationwide – and we can always use more volunteers! To view volunteer projects in the area, volunteer, or donate, go to <http://www.voa.org/Get-Help/National-Network-of-Services/Veterans>

## **Operation Gratitude**

Operation Gratitude annually sends 150,000+ care packages filled with snacks, entertainment, hygiene and hand-made items, plus personal letters of appreciation, to New Recruits, Veterans, First Responders, Wounded Warriors, Care Givers and to individually named U.S.

Service Members deployed overseas. Our mission is to lift the spirits and meet the evolving needs of our Active Duty and Veteran communities, and provide volunteer opportunities for all Americans to express their appreciation to members of our Military. Each package contains donated product valued at \$75-100 and costs the organization \$15 to assemble and ship. Since its inception in 2003, Operation Gratitude volunteers have shipped more than One Million Care Packages. To view volunteer projects in the area, volunteer, or donate, go to <https://www.operationgratitude.com/>

### **California Volunteers**

California Volunteers is the state office that manages programs and initiatives aimed at increasing the number of Californians engaged in volunteer service. To learn more about volunteering in the State of California, go to [www.californiavolunteers.org/index.php](http://www.californiavolunteers.org/index.php) or call (888) 567-SERV.

### **Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service**

VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) is committed to engaging American citizens in service and providing lasting benefits to the veterans and communities in which they live. To view volunteer projects in the area, volunteer, or donate, go to [www.volunteer.va.gov/unitedweserve.asp](http://www.volunteer.va.gov/unitedweserve.asp).

For more information or to volunteer for one of the programs listed above, go to [www.volunteer.va.gov/](http://www.volunteer.va.gov/) or call (800) 827-1000.

### **Student Volunteer Program**

Student volunteers are an important part of the VA medical centers' treatment team. They act as community liaisons and provide a valuable element of caring for veterans in their area. Student volunteer opportunities may be available in the areas of audiology and speech pathology, outpatient and ambulatory care, physical therapy, medical administration, research, nursing, social work, and many others.

For a list of student volunteer opportunities, contact the local VA facility by calling (800) 827-1000 or go to the VA Volunteer Service site at [www.volunteer.va.gov/](http://www.volunteer.va.gov/). To complete a volunteer application online, go to [www.volunteer.va.gov/apps/volunteernow/](http://www.volunteer.va.gov/apps/volunteernow/).