

ACC Service-Learning Options
Prof. Villarreal | Fall 2025

Community Engagement or Service-Learning is a fun and purpose-filled way to learn. You will volunteer with one of the partners below as one of your assignments this semester, then complete a reflection and/or other assignment based on that experience. Some options are on-campus, some are off-campus, and some options can even be done remotely. Be sure to read the menu of options below to find one that works best with your schedule!

Hear about our Service-Learning Program directly from ACC Students! [Service-Learning Student Video](#)

Read out Professor Villarreal's students and projects in the news!

- October 2024: "Service-Learning Students interviewed for ACC Votes Parade to the Polls Event" [Read Online Article](#)
- March 2025: Service-Learning Student Serves as Host for a Spring 2025 Bat Chat on the topic of "Ambition Without Exhaustion: Balance vs. Rhythm"! Zoila Watson, a student in Prof. Becky Villarreal's service-learning Composition class. [Visit Website](#)
- Read more Service-Learning News [HERE!](#)

Instructions:

1. Read the options below. Sign up for an opportunity at the link provided.
 2. Complete the Service-Learning Student Orientation--[CLICK HERE TO BEGIN](#). Be sure to complete the [Service-Learning Student Agreement](#) in this orientation. **Submit proof that you completed orientation when you submit Journal One** by taking screenshots of the completed quiz and agreement form and attaching those screenshots to Journal One.
 3. Complete your volunteer experience and your instructor's assignments related to the experience (Paper Three--English 1302).
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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES--SUSTAINABILITY

Hover on the table and click 'update' to make sure the list is current!

Volunteer Opportunity	Volunteer Partner Name	Volunteer Modality	Date	Time	Location	Description of opportunity	Sign-Up Link
Austin Organic Gardener's Community Teaching Garden Volunteer Day!	Zilker Botanical Garden	Off-Campus	Saturdays (except October)	8:45a m - 10:30a m	2220 Barton Springs Rd Austin, Texas 78746	Join the Austin Organic Gardeners (AOG) in maintaining the Community Teaching Garden. This opportunity is for garden volunteers ages 18+. To sign up, click on the calendar link, find a Saturday that works, and click on the AOG opportunity on that Saturday.	CLICK HERE
MDC Education Program Volunteer Application	Manos de Cristo	Off-Campus	Varies	Varies	4911 Harmon Avenue, Austin, TX 78751	Classes meet twice a week. Volunteers are asked to commit to at least one shift per week for the entire semester (2 months for computers, 4 months for all other classes).	CLICK HERE

Union Park East & West Cleanup	Austin Parks Foundation	Off-Campus	9/13/25	8:00 am - 11:00 am	7701 Colton-Bluff Springs Rd., Austin, TX 78744	Join us for a cleanup event at Union Park East and West! Accessibility: This event is mostly accessible to all attendees - this event will take place at a park; sidewalks and trails are available. What to bring: Closed toe shoes, a FULL water bottle, snack, sunscreen and comfortable clothing. We will provide all tools and neoprene gloves - if you have your own gardening or work gloves you are welcome to bring them. Where to park: Parking is located across from the food truck area at the Union at Easton Park! Where we will begin: We will meet at Cenizo coffeeshop. Look for the organizer with supplies!	CLICK HERE
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Trail Conservancy Volunteer	The Trail Conservancy	Off-Campus	Varies	Varies	Butler Hike and Bike Trail, Austin	Ecological restoration and trash clean-up, currently every Saturday from 9-12 (but check the link for other times). Work with the Trail Foundation to do hands-on trail improvement projects such as planting, weeding, and other ecological restoration activities on the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail.	CLICK HERE
Fridays at the Elgin Farm	ACC Sustainable Agriculture Department	On-Campus	Fridays	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	EGN Campus: 1501 US-290, Elgin, TX	Join the ACC Agricultural Sciences every Friday for a chance to get involved with the Sustainable Student Farm! The farm gate will be open from 9:00-12:00 for any interested individuals to stop by, tour the farm, and get their hands dirty with a variety of volunteer tasks. The only requirements to join each week is a valid ACC ID, proper sun protection, water, and a mindset of respect and safety at all times. Questions? Contact Matthew Olson, Sustainable Student Farm Manager (matthew.olson@austincc.edu).	CLICK HERE

						Follow them on Instagram (@acc.agricultural.sciences)	
Plant Trees and Maintain Park	Pease Park Conservancy	Off-Campus	Varies	Varies	Kingsbury Commons (1100 Kingsbury Street) or other nearby locations	Thanks to our Pease Corps, more than 3,000 trees have been planted, the lawn and canopy have been restored, and hundreds of harmful, invasive species have been removed. Unless stated, our volunteer opportunities are open to participants of all ages. Anyone 13+ can join, but children will need adult supervision.	CLICK HERE
Nature Walk Scavenger Hunt	Any Baby Can	Remote	Flexible	Flexibl e	Remote	Encourage families to bond, explore, and learn with a fun and engaging activity! Create Nature Walk Scavenger Hunt games designed for parents and young children to enjoy together. These reusable boards guide families on outdoor adventures, helping them discover the world around them while fostering curiosity, connection, and a love for nature.	CLICK HERE

Citizen Science Sharing	iNaturalist	Remote	Ongoing	Flexible	Remote	Every observation can contribute to biodiversity science, from the rarest butterfly to the most common backyard weed. We share your findings with scientific data repositories like the Global Biodiversity Information Facility to help scientists find and use your data. All you have to do is observe.	CLICK HERE
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Zooniverse Remote Researcher, Beta Tester, or Moderator	Zooniverse	Remote	varies	varies	Remote	The Zooniverse is the world's largest and most popular platform for people-powered research. This research is made possible by volunteers—millions of people around the world who come together to assist professional researchers. Our goal is to enable research that would not be possible, or practical, otherwise. Zooniverse research results in new discoveries, datasets useful to the wider research community, and many publications. Anyone can be a researcher. You don't need any specialized background, training, or expertise to participate in Zooniverse projects. We make it easy for anyone to contribute to real academic research, on their own computer, at their convenience. You'll be able to study authentic data gathered by researchers, like images of faraway galaxies, historical records and diaries, or videos of animals in their natural habitats. By participating in projects, you'll help contribute to our understanding of the world, the universe, and more. With our wide-ranging and ever-expanding suite of projects, which cover many disciplines and topics across the sciences and humanities, there's a place for anyone and everyone to explore, learn, and have fun in the Zooniverse. To volunteer, visit the Projects page, choose one you like the look of, and get started.	CLICK HERE
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ACC Green Team Volunteer	ACC Office of Energy and Sustainability	On-Campus	Varies	Varies	Varies	ACC is committed to becoming a leader in sustainability. That means using less energy and fewer resources while minimizing waste. ACC's Office of Energy & Sustainability hosts sustainable initiatives designed to shrink the college's ecological footprint and increase environmental awareness.	CLICK HERE
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Keep Austin Beautiful Volunteer	Keep Austin Beautiful	Off-Campus	Varies	Varies	Varies	They inspire and educate all Austinites to volunteer together, beautify green spaces, clean waterways, and reduce waste every day. They have numerous volunteer opportunities all over the Central Texas area.	CLICK HERE
Texas Tribal Buffalo Project Volunteer	Texas Tribal Buffalo Project	Off-Campus	Varies	Varies	Varies	Texas Tribal Buffalo Project offers opportunities for individuals to actively contribute to the organization's mission of cultural preservation and ecological stewardship. Volunteers play a crucial role in various initiatives, including buffalo conservation, community outreach, and event coordination. By volunteering with TTBP, individuals have the chance to make a tangible difference in honoring Indigenous heritage and protecting the environment. Whether assisting with ranch activities, participating in educational programs, or supporting events, volunteers are integral to TTBP's efforts in fostering community resilience and cultural revitalization. They are looking for in-person volunteers to help with the Buffalo harvest. (Submit volunteer request form at the bottom of their website.)	CLICK HERE

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES--FOOD INSECURITY

Hover on the table and click 'update' to make sure the list is current!

Volunteer Opportunity	Volunteer Partner Name	Volunteer Modality	Date	Time	Location	Description of opportunity	Sign-Up Link
Convivio Volunteer	Casa Marianella	Off-Campus	Every Last Saturday of the Month	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	821 Gunter St, Austin, TX 78702	Sometime in the early 2000's (no one quite remembers the year), Casa Marianella staff were faced with a practical problem. The shelter, which houses around 40 people and serves dinner daily, was overstretched by the amount of former residents who were returning to spend their days and eat at Casa. So staff member Rebecca Hall and executive director Jennifer Long settled on a uniquely appropriate solution. Rather than simply creating new rules and limitations, they would channel the returning residents into a single day (per month) of concentrated hospitality. They would call it Convivio, and everyone who had passed through Casa Marianella would be encouraged to come, hang out, and feast with one another. Join us for live music, food, fun, fellowship and dancing! Help serve food, keep the event organized, and learn from residents about their journeys.	CLICK HERE

Caritas of Austin General Volunteer	Caritas of Austin	Off-Campus	Varies	Varies	Downtown or North Austin locations	Prepare and serve lunch to people experiencing homelessness and in need of a quality meal.	CLICK HERE
Fridays at the Elgin Farm	ACC Sustainable Agriculture Department	On-Campus	Fridays	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	EGN Campus: 1501 US-290, Elgin, TX	Join the ACC Agricultural Sciences every Friday for a chance to get involved with the Sustainable Student Farm! The farm gate will be open from 9:00-12:00 for any interested individuals to stop by, tour the farm, and get their hands dirty with a variety of volunteer tasks. The only requirements to join each week is a valid ACC ID, proper sun protection, water, and a mindset of respect and safety at all times. Questions? Contact Matthew Olson, Sustainable Student Farm Manager (matthew.olson@austincc.edu). Follow them on Instagram (@acc.agricultural.sciences)	CLICK HERE

Central Texas Food Bank Volunteer	Central Texas Food Bank	Off-Campus	Varies	Varies	Varies	Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Food Bank. We have weekday and weekend volunteer opportunities—perfect for individuals and groups—helping prepare food donations for distribution and distributing food at mobile food pantries. You must be 8 years or older to volunteer in the warehouse and 15 years or older to volunteer in the kitchen, garden, or Mobile Pantry. Note that everyone, including minors, need to sign up individually.	CLICK HERE
El Buen Samaritano Volunteer	El Buen Samaritano	Off-Campus	Varies	Varies	Varies	El Buen strives to ensure access to healthcare, education & essential needs that lead to healthy, productive & secure lives. They have opportunities working at their food pantry, helping tutor, and helping teach ESL classes. All education volunteer opportunities require a semester-long commitment. All education volunteer opportunities are virtual via Zoom. After you apply, our volunteer coordinator will contact you as soon as possible to begin your onboarding process. Click here to apply to volunteer and for more information.	CLICK HERE



Want to explore other ways to get engaged?
Scan the QR code to the left to access the [ACC VOLUNTEER HUB](#) for a full list of on-campus and off-campus partnerships! You can also visit our [GivePulse](#) page to find a current list of upcoming off-campus opportunities.
Email: servicelearning@austincc.edu
Website: <https://servicelearning.austincc.edu/>

Finding Volunteer Opportunities

This semester, we will focus on food insecurity and civic engagement.

- [Food insecurity](#) and [Sustainability](#) (click the links for on- and off-campus farm/gardening options, as well as food bank and food forest/foraging options)
- [Civic Engagement](#) (Red Bench, Braver Angels, Civic Simulations, etc.)

The ACC [Volunteer Hub](#) has a number of volunteer opportunities with vetted partners who work to reduce food insecurity. These Featured Volunteer Opportunities are found [at this link](#) and include the Central Texas Food Bank, Casa Marianella, El Buen Samaritano, the ACC Elgin Sustainable Agriculture Farm, and more.

The Office of Energy and Sustainability also has a number of upcoming on-campus opportunities—including volunteer opportunities:

- Fri (11/7) - (Volunteer) [Zero Waste Event at RGC](#): Volunteers are still needed to help with the upcoming Faculty CoReq Summit. If you are interested in earning some volunteer hours and learning more about Zero Waste, please sign up here.
- Thu (11/13) - (Job Fair) [Transit Career Event](#): The Green Team has openings for three students to attend Movability's Q4 Quarterly membership event focused on National Transit Career Day from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. downtown at the Austin Chamber of Commerce. If interested, please email green@austincc.edu for more information.
- Sat (11/15) - (Event) [Elgin Fall Festival](#): Join us for family-friendly festivities, farm stands, and food vendors at Austin Community College's Elgin Campus. This is a FREE event open to students, families, employees, and the wider ACC community.
- Thu (11/20) - (Event) [R.B.'s 15th Birthday Bash at Highland](#): If you missed the Solar Snow Cone Demo at HLC this past month, join us in celebrating our beloved mascot's birthday and get a Zero Waste, solar-powered snow cone from the Office of Energy & Sustainability.
- Fri (11/21) - (Volunteer Event) [AAPI Thanksgiving Lunch & Trail Cleanup](#): Thanksgiving Lunch & Trail Cleanup!

Other upcoming community engagement opportunities with on-campus partners include these great options:

- Sat (11/8): [Civic Deliberation Simulation](#) at Rio Grande Campus - November 8th (1:00pm to 5:00pm) at the Center for Government and Civic Service. This event will be on Saturday, November 8th and will be a Civic Deliberation Simulation focused on the July 4th flash flood in Central Texas. Students will learn about the flash flood's response and recovery efforts, collaborate with others to discuss social and technical challenges in crisis response, and contribute design ideas that could grow into future capstone projects, volunteer initiatives, or entrepreneurial efforts. [CLICK HERE](#) to register.
- Wed (11/12): Spanish-English Conversation Exchange: Practica tu español con nosotros EN LÍNEA! at Highland Campus - November 12th (1:00pm to 2:30pm). Join [El Centro](#) and Professor Ramiro Juarez of ACC's [Department of World Languages](#) for bilingual conversation and connection! This in-person language exchange event will be held in partnership with the Service-Learning Program and the [Truth, Community Healing and Transformation Center \(TCHT\)](#) at the [Highland Campus](#), Building 4000. It's open to everyone at ACC! [RSVP form coming soon](#) on the Volunteer Hub website.

Become a VDR (Volunteer Deputy Registrar)

To become a VDR, you must be at least 18, a US citizen, and a Texas resident. In order to receive service-learning credit for these VDR trainings, you will need to become a certified VDR and register voters for at least one event before Spring Break. You will take a short test and then complete an exam.

TO BECOME A VDR IN TRAVIS COUNTY

- From this website (<https://tax-office.traviscountytexas.gov/voters/volunteer-deputy-registrars>) register for an online class.
- Try this link [here](#) if you have issues connecting to the exam.

TO BECOME A VDR IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY

1. From this website (<https://www.wilcotx.gov/448/Volunteer-Deputy-Registrar>) choose either a live class (online) or a self-paced class.
 2. If you are already certified Travis county, follow these instructions for reciprocal certification: <https://www.wilcotx.gov/Faq.aspx?QID=414>
- Once you become a certified VDR, click [here](#) to register voters at Austin area events, concerts, and festivals!

Ecological Restoration and Trash Clean-Ups (Student-Led)

ACC Free Grocery Pick-Ups

Various dates and campuses: Click [here](#) for schedule. Help distribute food on ACC campuses with the Central Texas Food Bank and other area partners. Visit the [Food Support website](#) for more information.

ACC Volunteer Friday at the Elgin Farm

Every Friday from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm -- Join the [ACC Agricultural Sciences](#) every Friday for a chance to get involved with the Student Farm! The farm gate will be open from 9:00 am -12:00 pm for any interested individuals to stop by, tour the farm, and get their hands dirty with a variety of volunteer tasks. The only requirements to join each week is a valid ACC ID, proper sun protection, water, and a mindset of respect and safety at all times. Questions? Contact Matthew Olson, Sustainable Student Farm Manager (matthew.olson@austincc.edu).

Braver Angels Workshops and eCourses (Fully Asynchronous)

“Braver Angels is leading the nation’s largest cross-partisan, volunteer-led movement to bridge the partisan divide for the good of our democratic republic. The American Hope campaign is equipping Americans across the political spectrum to work together and demand the same of politicians from both parties.” [Click here](#) to learn more about their various workshops and training opportunities. After researching the options, please review their [Online Event Calendar](#). You may add filters on the left navigation menu based on the workshop or course you would like to find. They have evening Zoom workshops as well as online courses.

[Zooniverse](#) is another fully online asynchronous option--you find research to help with online, and there are all kinds of choices.
Service-Learning Student Showcase

Finding Other Approved Volunteer Opportunities

Please visit the [ACC Volunteer Hub](#) and the [ACC GivePulse page](#) to find updated information on available opportunities with internal and external partners.

[Virtual and Remote Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Please note that **church work does not qualify** unless you are engaged in specific outreach to the community (food and clothing drives, etc.).

Check with me first!

Tracking Volunteer Hours: To make it easier to track and submit hours, go here: [HOW TO REPORT VOLUNTEER HOURS](#)

Keep up-to-date on our Service-Learning opportunities and events on our [Service-Learning Website](#).

Please note: When you volunteer for organizations that are external to ACC, please email me for permission and then document everything or have the program director email me at bvillarr@austincc.edu to obtain credit for your service.

If you serve six or or more hours (of approved service-learning activities), you will need to provide proof when you submit Journal Three (for exemption).

Please contact Linda Cox at lcx@austincc.edu if you need more guidance in finding a service learning activity that works for you.

Service-Learning Student Showcase

All service-learning students are invited to participate in the showcase! Students will connect with one another and the ACC community, gain career skills in a friendly environment, and allow us to celebrate your work on your service-learning project. Participants will also receive cool swag and a digital participation badge that can be added to your LinkedIn profile. Stay tuned for updates on our [Showcase Website](#)!

Click [here](#) to view showcase examples from the past few years! There is a template for the tri-fold on the website; [here's](#) the direct link. Linda Cox can help you print in 11 x 17 size (which is smallish, but it's full color and free). Here is one student's outline in the discussion board: [Mock Up Poster-1.pdf](#). Below is the student's Take One (for Paper Four, English 1302) in the Discussion Board.

A purple sign with a white border. It says "Come to our BOOK FAIR!" in white and yellow text. Below that, a blue banner says "LET'S RAISE READERS!" in white text. At the bottom, it says "K.C. Middle School" in small white text.

A Study of Elimination And/Or Cutbacks in Public School Libraries

➤ **Purpose:** I assisted the volunteer librarian at our Elementary School by rearranging the library. This included dusting shelves, re-shelving the books in order after indexing, and helping as needed.

➤ **Librarian cutbacks and elimination:** Texas has not significantly increased funding for public schools since 2019. As costs rose during a high-inflation period, some districts slashed librarian positions to help balance budgets and pay for raises for other employees.



JOSHUA K. TUE
MAY 7, 2025

➤ **Public school libraries:** Volunteers are needed to help manage resources with limited funding and the significant needs of students, especially in rural Texas.

- **Volunteers:** School library volunteers play a vital role by:

- Helping keep libraries open
- Maintaining resources
- Providing continued services to students



"Just as a teacher shortage is real, so is volunteering in the schools, especially in their libraries."

"The librarian shortage has a direct impact on the teachers, students, and parents."



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Disrupt What Needs Them the Most." *School Library
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Mathews, David. "Eliminating School Libraries Is
Senseless." *The University of Texas at Austin*. UT
News, 30 Aug. 2012.

Sander, Elizabeth. "Giving Branch ISD Parents Back
Asking Why Libraries." *Champion Leader*. Buda,
Cuts News. "San Antonio Express News", 4 Mar.
2014.

U.S. News & World Report. "School Libraries Close? Every