

# SFZC Volunteering

*First clean, then zazen. — Suzuki Roshi*

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at SFZC's City Center and/or Green Gulch Farm. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities available and are happy to find one that aligns with your interests, talents, ability, and availability.

Your first step is to fill out the short application form [on our website](#). Once we receive your Volunteer Application, we will connect you with a staff member who will provide more information, answer any questions you may have, and help schedule your first volunteer shift.

Volunteering is a wonderful way to step more deeply into community life and discover more about yourself and your practice. SFZC treasures our volunteers, several who have been coming for years (even decades!) to help bring practice and the teachings of Suzuki Roshi to all who seek them.

## TEMPLE OPPORTUNITIES:

Please note that this document will be updated frequently as opportunities/volunteer positions become available or are filled.

- **Green Gulch Farm:** 1601 Shoreline Hwy, Muir Beach, CA 94965  
Seeking volunteers for the farm (all days except Saturdays), garden, kitchen, and maintenance (high-level skills needed).
- **Online Zendo**  
Seeking volunteers to assist in the Zoom room by supporting the sangha during the broadcast.
- **City Center (Beginner's Mind Temple)** 300 Page Street, SF, CA 94102
  - **Kitchen** (M–F, 9:30 am & 4 pm)  
Seeking volunteers in the kitchen to assist in producing joyful vegetarian food that is organic, local, and made from scratch, while maintaining a distinct Zen kitchen culture.
  - **Saturday Sangha Lunch** (Sep 27, Oct 25, Nov 22)  
Seeking volunteers to assist temple staff in providing lunch and tea and cookies for the Saturday practice group (every 4th Saturday of the month).
  - **Garden** (Dates & times TBD)  
Seeking volunteers to help bring Zen practice into the City Center garden, cultivating mindfulness, a connection with the earth, and a peaceful space for the sangha.
  - **Bookstore** (Volunteer shifts are currently full)  
Volunteers help support the bookstore.
  - **Library** (Opens in October)  
Seeking volunteers to welcome visitors to the library and support silence and mindfulness, as well as helping with an annual book sale to support

SFZC outreach offerings. We accept donations of gently used books about Buddhism.

- **Facility/Maintenance**

Seeking volunteers to support the temple maintenance crew by joining in tasks like painting, construction, and all manner of repairs.

- **Special Events**

Seeking volunteers for help with set up, wayfinding, check-in, tidying event spaces, and post-event clean up.

- **Doan Ryo**

Seeking volunteers to train in ceremonial roles such as caring for the altars (Chiden), sounding instruments (Fukudo), keeping track of time (Doan), assisting the officiating Priest (Jiko), and chanting (Kokyo) to support practice.

## NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH

- **Prison Correspondence Program (Various dates/times)**

Seeking volunteers with a meditation practice, an understanding of basic Buddhist teachings, and half an hour to volunteer a month. We connect Buddhist practitioners in jail and prison with volunteer pen pals. Get matched as a pen pal with a person who is incarcerated. All mail comes through the SFZC offices to maintain anonymity.

- **Open Sangha with the Night Ministry (Oct 20, Nov 17)**

Seeking volunteers for meal preparation and organizing care kits for our unhoused neighbors, followed by service at Civic Center and a communal meal (every 3rd Monday of the month).

- **Clara House (Oct 31)**

Seeking volunteers for Clara House, a transitional housing program for families. Activities include a yearly trip to GGF, Halloween trick-or-treating, and a holiday party in December.

- **Beach Cleanup (Tentative dates: Nov 1, Dec 6)**

Seeking volunteers to join us in conserving our beautiful beaches at a monthly beach clean up! Enjoy ocean views while removing litter, protecting native habitats, and helping minimize marine debris. No experience necessary. All training and tools will be provided (first Saturday of the month).

- **Narcan Training (any day of the week)**

**Seeking a Narcan Lead.** Once we have a Lead for this volunteer opportunity, we will also be seeking volunteers for training on administering the life-saving medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose.

- **Meals on Wheels (various dates)**

**Seeking a Meals on Wheels Lead.** Once we have a Lead for this volunteer opportunity, we will also be seeking volunteers for grocery assembly and staging for drivers at the MOW facility. Delivery drivers in MOW vehicles deliver groceries citywide. This is challenging work, but the rewards of feeding our brothers and sisters in need are boundless (Wednesdays).

- **Meditation at Western Park Apartments (Alternate Tuesdays)**

**Seeking a Western Park Lead.** Once we have a Lead for this volunteer opportunity, we will also be seeking volunteers to support seniors through stress-reducing meditation at a senior housing location

For deeper and more intensive service experiences, you are welcome to apply to our residential Apprenticeship Programs such as:

- [City Center Kitchen Apprenticeship](#)
- [Green Gulch Farm Kitchen Apprenticeship](#)
- [Green Gulch Farm & Land Steward Apprenticeship](#)
- [City Center Temple Care Crew](#)

Or apply to volunteer at a [Tassajara Work Period](#), held in April and September, for specialists in carpentry, plumbing, electrical, gardening, painting, and general maintenance.

## **Thank you for your interest in volunteering!**

as of 9/22/25