volunteerphoenix

october-november 2011



"Our volunteers have played an invaluable role in the community development of Phoenix. I applaud their continued efforts and positive impact on the community. Seniors, children, neighborhoods and those in need have all benefitted from the selfless work of our volunteers." – Councilman Bill Gates, District 3



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program

One hour of your time may be worth more than \$1,800 to a working family. The city's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Campaign needs VITA volunteers who will help low-income working individuals and families prepare their taxes and claim the federal Earned Income Tax Credit. To train volunteers for the upcoming tax season, the Internal Revenue Service and the city of Phoenix are partnering to offer free training sessions from November to January at locations across the city. Last year, VITA volunteers helped prepare more than 5,700 returns resulting in more than \$9 million to Phoenix residents.

Visit phoenix.gov/volunteer for more information.



If you would like to receive more information about volunteer opportunities at the city of Phoenix, email us at volunteer@phoenix.gov or call Cynthia Aguilar at 602-495-7195.

Help Provide Safe and Accessible Parking Spaces

The city of Phoenix created the Save Our Space Campaign to educate the public about the importance of saving disabled parking spaces for those who really need them. Despite increased fines for illegal use of designated accessible parking spaces, assistance with monitoring these spaces is still needed. The Accessibility Compliance Enforcement (ACE) aide is a volunteer who has committed to serve a minimum of four hours each week by patrolling the city of Phoenix and writing disabled parking citations. The mission of the ACE Program is to provide safe and accessible parking spaces for the disabled community through enforcement and education. ACE volunteer Jim Winston, wheelchair-bound due to Multiple Sclerosis, stated that the most frequent excuse violators use is, I just parked for a second while I ran in for (fill in the blank). He adds that "Some think it's a privilege to be handicapped and park close. I'd rather take the farthest spot out just so I could walk in." To report illegal use of disabled parking spaces, call **602-534-SPACE**.

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My Phoenix, My Park Citizen Forester Volunteer Program

In 2010, the city of Phoenix adopted the Tree and Shade Master Plan that created the vision for a healthier, more livable and prosperous Phoenix through investment in the urban forest. The city of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department maintains more than 220 parks and 718 linear miles of street landscape. There are thousands of trees that need to be planted and maintained and the Parks and Recreation Department needs your help. Citizen Foresters serve the community by helping city staff properly plant and care for urban trees. They help lead tree plantings, teaching volunteers how to plant and maintain trees as well as spread the word about the value of the urban forest. The inaugural class of Citizen Foresters completed training on September 10, 2011. Eight community members went through the training and will be assisting city of Phoenix staff with tree planting projects throughout the year. Congratulations to the participants. We appreciate your commitment!

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Teen Volunteers Needed at Local Libraries

The Cholla and Harmon Branch Libraries are recruiting volunteers between the ages of 13-18 years. Cholla Branch Library, 10050 Metro Parkway East, is in need of assistance with daily operations such as shelving materials and helping with various library programs. Teens also have the opportunity to volunteer for the Teen Literacy Crew at the Harmon Branch Library, 1325 S. 5th Ave. Teen Literacy Crew volunteers read to children after school and help prepare supplies and materials for story time programs. Both opportunities are year-round and allow teens to volunteer up to four hours per week.

Phoenix Fire Department - Community Assistance Program

The Phoenix Fire Department's Community Assistance Program (CAP) Crisis Response Units provide 24/7 onscene victim assistance, crisis intervention, emotional support, resources, referrals, shelter placement, emergency financial assistance for basic needs, transportation and investigative liaison assistance throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area. Crisis Response Units are dispatched to provide assistance through the Regional Fire Dispatch System when requested by police and fire personnel, domestic violence shelters, the Family Advocacy Center or other CAP staff, and respond to sexual assault, domestic violence, traffic accidents involving death or impairment, child abuse or neglect, elder abuse, assaults, kidnappings, human trafficking, robbery, working house fires, and homicides. Spanish speaking volunteers are needed!

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