

# ENVIRONMENT



*San Francisco and environmental activism go hand in hand. We're lucky enough to live close to many open spaces, from McLaren and Golden Gate Parks to the Headlands and San Bruno Mountain. Hundreds of grassroots environmental groups offer opportunities to get your hands dirty by removing non-native plants, teaching elementary students how to make tea tree tea or creating a community garden. By addressing local problems, you'll be helping the environment and improving the quality of life for everyone who lives here.\**

\*Bay Area Volunteer's Handbook, EarthWorks Press

## Adopt-A-Watershed (F)

The Presidio, 38 Keyes Ave, #5, San Francisco  
415-561-4605

**Email:** [www.adopt-a-watershed.org](http://www.adopt-a-watershed.org)  
**Minimum age:** 14  
**Bus lines:**

**Web:** [www.adopt-a-watershed.org](http://www.adopt-a-watershed.org)  
**W/parental supervision:** 8  
**BART:**

Adopt-A-Watershed is a powerful curricula which weaves schools together with local natural resource agencies, businesses, and community organizations. It helps students develop scientific literacy, environmental stewardship, and an ethic of service. Please call for more information on volunteer opportunities.

## CA Coastal Commission; Adopt-A-Beach

45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000, San Francisco  
415-904-5210

**Email:** [coast4u@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:coast4u@coastal.ca.gov)  
**Minimum age:** 14  
**Bus lines:** Transbay Terminal

**Web:** [www.coastal.ca.gov](http://www.coastal.ca.gov)  
**W/parental supervision:** 8  
**BART:** Embarcadero

Adopt-a-Beach organizes the California Coastal Cleanup Day: a one day, statewide beach cleanup in late September. Volunteers pick up trash and record data on the debris they find.

## Chinese Progressive Association

660 Sacramento Street #202, San Francisco  
415-391-6986

**Email:** [cpa@mail.wind.com](mailto:cpa@mail.wind.com)  
**Minimum age:** 15  
**Bus lines:** 1,15

**Web:**  
**W/parental supervision:** 15  
**BART:** Montgomery st

CPA is a Grassroots organization which empowers the local chinese community and promotes justice and equality for all people. The youth volunteers are needed to help with CPA's Anti-Tabacco project and our housing justice campaign.

## BA Ridge Trail Council (F, G)

26 O'Farrell Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco  
415-391-9300

**Email:** [ridgetrail@aol.com](mailto:ridgetrail@aol.com)  
**Minimum age:** 14  
**Bus lines:**

**Web:** [www.ridgetrail.org](http://www.ridgetrail.org)  
**W/parental supervision:** 8  
**BART:** Powell

The Ridge Trail Council builds and maintains a network of nature and historical trails which run along the principle ridge line around the San Francisco Bay Area. Volunteers assist with creating new trails throughout the Bay Area, and conduct hikes, bike rides, and horseback rides along the San Francisco portion of the Ridge Trail. Call for information on other volunteer opportunities.

## CA Coastal Commission (G,F)

45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000, San Francisco  
1-800-coast4u

**Email:** [www.coastal.ca.gov](http://www.coastal.ca.gov)  
**Minimum age:** 14  
**Bus lines:** Transbay Terminal

**Web:** [www.coastal.ca.gov](http://www.coastal.ca.gov)  
**W/parental supervision:** 6  
**BART:** Embarcadero

Have you ever been to a beach and thought: "This would be such a beautiful place if it were only cleaned up"? If you have 2-4 hours to spare 3 times a year, you can do just that! As a member of an Adopt-a-Beach group, you will participate in cleaning up and caring for a beach or a section of a beach. If you would like to join us for our one-day statewide cleanup call for more information about the Coastal Clean Up Day!

## Coyote Point Museum for Environmental

1651 Coyote Point Drive, San Mateo  
650-340-7580

**Email:** [info@coyoteptmuseum.org](mailto:info@coyoteptmuseum.org)  
**Minimum age:** 12  
**Bus lines:**

**Web:** [www.coyoteptmuseum.org](http://www.coyoteptmuseum.org)  
**W/parental supervision:** 6  
**BART:**

Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education promotes awareness of, and respect for, our environment and the interdependence of people and nature in people of all ages. Call for information on volunteer opportunities.

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## Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund

426 17th Street, 5th Floor, Oakland  
510-550-6725

**Email:** eajusca@earthjustice.org **Web:** www.earthjustice.org  
**Minimum age:** 14 **W/parental supervision:** 14  
**Bus lines:** 2, 3, 4, 15, Market St. **BART:** Montgomery

Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund is a non-profit, environmental law firm which represents a variety of non-profits and individuals in legal actions designed to protect and restore environmental quality. Call for information on volunteer opportunities.

## Environmental Science Center

Fort Funston, San Francisco  
415-469-4763

**Email:** **Web:**  
**Minimum age:** 16 **W/parental supervision:** 16  
**Bus lines:** 18 **BART:** Daly City

The Environmental Science Center offers lots of great opportunities: help lead K-5 students on nature walks; assist in maintenance by weeding, mulching, planting, etc.; help develop environmental education activities and special projects; prepare displays, bulletin boards and learning stations; act as an animal care taker and learn to feed, clean cages, and exercise chinchillas, guinea pigs, snakes, and box turtles.

## Friends of the Urban Forest (G)

Presidio of SF - Bldg 1007, San Francisco  
415-561-6890

**Email:** maggie@fuf.net **Web:** www.fuf.net  
**Minimum age:** 14 **W/parental supervision:** 14  
**Bus lines:** 15, 30, 43 **BART:** Montgomery

Make San Francisco more beautiful by helping Friends of the Urban Forest plant and maintain trees throughout the city. Planting volunteers dig holes, plant trees, stake, and support the newly-planted trees. Maintenance volunteers learn the basics of tree pruning, how to adjust the ties and stakes, and even problem diagnosis.

## GGNPA Site Stewardship Program (F,G)

Fort Mason, Building 201 3rd Floor, San Francisco  
415-561-3034 x3430

**Email:** kpoore@ggnpa.org **Web:** www.ggnpa.org  
**Minimum age:** 8 **W/parental supervision:** 8  
**Bus lines:** 10, 19, 22, 30, 47, 49, **BART:**

Youth and families are welcome to join us for our regularly scheduled, Saturday workdays. Our workdays take place at various sites in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, primarily the work is centered around habitat restoration and maintenance. This is a great opportunity to get outdoors, enjoy some fresh air and learn more about the natural world around you. Please contact us for more information and project locations.

## Environmental Careers Organization

381 Bush Street, Ste. 700, San Francisco  
415-362-5552 x171

**Email:** **Web:** www.eco.org  
**Minimum age:** 16 **W/parental supervision:** 18  
**Bus lines:** 2, 3, 4 **BART:** Montgomery

ECO needs your help with general office assistance, special office projects, research and compiling a database on local environmental groups, organizing and maintaining a resource library, and help organizing events. Volunteers with strong communication skills and computer skills are needed. Volunteers will get great experience that can be put on a

## Friends of the River

915 - 20th Street, Sacramento  
916 442-3155x203

**Email:** **Web:** www.friendsoftheriver.org  
**Minimum age:** 16 **W/parental supervision:** 13  
**Bus lines:** #28, 22, 43, 30 **BART:**

The mission of Friends of the River is to preserve, protect, and restore rivers, streams, and watersheds by promoting public education, citizen activist training and organizing, and expert advocacy to influence public policy. Please call for more information on volunteer opportunities. \*\*Volunteers are always needed for Special Events!\*\*

## Presidio Park Stewards (F,G)

Fort Mason Building, #204, San Francisco  
415-668-8429

**Email:** aleutia\_scott@nps.gov **Web:** www.nps.gov/goga/vip/  
**Minimum age:** 15 **W/parental supervision:** 10  
**Bus lines:** 329, 41, 43, 45 **BART:**

We recruit volunteers for habitat restoration work in the Presidio. Volunteers may join the Golden Gate National Parks Association, Presidio Park Stewards, on Wed. and Sat. mornings. There are 15 restoration sites in the Presidio with 12 different habitat types. Habitat restoration focuses on native plant revegetation and invasive weed removal. Stewards work rain or shine on sites ranging from steep, rugged bluffs to flat, sandy beaches.

## GGNPC; Alcatraz Night Tour (F, G)

Alcatraz Island, San Francisco  
415-561-4926

**Email:** jnelson@ggnpa.org **Web:** www.nps.gov/goga  
**Minimum age:** Any Age **W/parental supervision:** Any  
**Bus lines:** F; 10,15,30,47 **BART:** Embarcadero Bart; bus to

You can have the unique opportunity to work in one of America's most famous sites, Alcatraz Island! Learn about the Island's history, and share it with visitors. Your participation will greatly enhance the park experience for visitors by giving them the chance to learn more about the Island's history. Call the Volunteer Hotline to receive a volunteer packet. We welcome volunteers of all ages!

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## Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Fort Mason, Building 201, San Francisco  
415-561-3034 x3429

**Email:** goga\_volunteers@hotmail. **Web:** www.nps.gov/goga/vip  
**Minimum age:** Any Age **W/parental supervision:** Any  
**Bus lines:** 30 **BART:**

Volunteers are needed to help restore native plant habitats and monitor animal populations. Several programs are available on a drop-in basis. Call to find out what exciting projects we have waiting for you!

## Hidden Villa (F, G)

26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills  
650-949-8655

**Email:** volunteers@hiddenvilla.o **Web:** www.hiddenvilla.org  
**Minimum age:** 14 **W/parental supervision:** 11  
**Bus lines:** **BART:**

Hidden Villa is an organic farm and 1600-acre wilderness preserve dedicated to environmental education (located 45 minutes south of SF). They have a garden, organic farm animals, and a farm education program. Volunteers can do building and repair work or special projects such as creek restoration, work in the ornamental or organic garden, as well as help with administrative/clerical duties.

## Literacy for Environmental Justice (F,G)

6220 Third Street, San Francisco  
415-508-0575

**Email:** **Web:**  
**Minimum age:** 15 **W/parental supervision:** 10  
**Bus lines:** #19 **BART:**

LEJ organizes school and youth groups in Environmental Justice Neighborhood Improvement Programs. Our goal is to develop youth leadership while promoting the environmental health of southeastern San Francisco. We offer help in designing community-based educational programs free of charge.

## Marine Science Institute

500 Discovery Parkway, Redwood City  
650-364-2760 x16

**Email:** rebecca@sfbaymsi.org **Web:** www.sfbaymsi.org  
**Minimum age:** 16 **W/parental supervision:** 16  
**Bus lines:** **BART:**

Young volunteers can help as research assistants - assist the research and monitoring of our ongoing collection of fish, invertebrate, and hydrology data. Commitment must be at least one half-day a week for an entire semester. Be a docents - lead Ocean Lab and Tidepool Expeditions for grades K-12 or a be costume designer - creating marine-style costumes and props for our shoreside and outreach programs.

## Pachamama Alliance

Presidio Building 1007, Suite 215, San Francisco  
415-561-4522

**Email:** info@pachamama.org **Web:** www.pachamama.org  
**Minimum age:** 16 **W/parental supervision:** 14  
**Bus lines:** 28, 43 **BART:**

The mission of The Pachamama Alliance is to halt the destruction of the Earth's tropical rainforests and the loss of its indigenous cultures, and to forge a new global vision of sustainability for us all. Call for information on volunteer opportunities.

## Rainforest Action Network

221 Pine Street, Suite 500, San Francisco  
415-398-4404

**Email:** skawanami@ran.org **Web:** www.ran.org  
**Minimum age:** 12 **W/parental supervision:** 12  
**Bus lines:** 12, 42, Market lines **BART:** Montgomery

Here's a great opportunity for students to get involved with environmental issues. Rainforest Action Network works to protect the Earth's rainforests and support the rights of their inhabitants through education, grassroots organizing, and non-violent direct action. RAN's volunteers assist in putting together information packets, filing, mailings, and special projects.

## SF Chapter of Surfrider Foundation (F)

Various Sites, San Francisco  
415-731-6473

**Email:** **Web:** www.sfsurfrider.org  
**Minimum age:** 18 **W/parental supervision:** Any  
**Bus lines:** **BART:**

Help preserve the coast of California by joining the SF chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. By doing beach cleanups and storm drain stenciling you'll be doing your part to save the coast. Call our Hot line (665-4155) to find out about upcoming events and activities.

## SF Clean City Coalition (F,G)

2713 San Bruno Avenue, San Francisco  
415-508-0050

**Email:** timdeweymattia@yahoo.c **Web:** www.sfcleancity.com  
**Minimum age:** 8 **W/parental supervision:** 8  
**Bus lines:** 9, 54 **BART:**

The San Francisco Clean City Coalition pilots a series of youth projects designed to cleanup and beautify the City and promote the goal of litter prevention and responsible waste management through youth education. Volunteers participate in projects, such as sweeping streets, schoolyards and parks, landscaping litter-prone roadsides, and making presentations to students. Watch for Great Sweep V, coming this fall! Keep SF clean and green!

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## SLUG (F,G)

2088 Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco  
415-285-7584

**Email:** slug@slug-sf.org **Web:**  
**Minimum age:** 14 **W/parental supervision:** 6  
**Bus lines:** 24 Divisadero **BART:** Glen Park

Get your hands dirty and learn about greening our urban environment by helping SF League of Urban Gardeners - Garden for the Environment (SLUG) with one of our gardening tasks. Call for more information about volunteer opportunities.

## SF Recreation and Park Department (F,G)

501 Stanyan Street, San Francisco  
415-753-7268

**Email:** Suzanna.Buehl@sfgov.org **Web:** www.parks.sfgov.org  
**Minimum age:** 16 **W/parental supervision:** 11  
**Bus lines:** Depends upon site **BART:**

The SF Recreation and Park Department manages 225 parks and recreation facilities throughout the city. Youth volunteers are needed for habitat restoration and park beautification. For more information, call Suzanna @ 753-7268. Get down and get your hands dirty!

## SF Recycling Program (F,G)

11 Grove Street, San Francisco  
415-355-3447

**Email:** becky\_wike@ci.sf.ca.us **Web:** www.sfrecycles.org  
**Minimum age:** 16 **W/parental supervision:** 12  
**Bus lines:** F, 5, 7, 19, 71,6 **BART:** Civic Center

At SF Recycling Program, volunteers are needed to assist in leading day-walks, field trips, and implementing campaigns to promote recycling and waste prevention in San Francisco schools.

## Starr King Park (F,G)

1200 Carolina Street, San Francisco  
415-810-4900

**Email:** starrkingparkbod@attbi.co **Web:**  
**Minimum age:** Any Age **W/parental supervision:** Any  
**Bus lines:** 19, 34, 53 and Cal **BART:** Muni 53

Family and youth are welcome as volunteers at Starr King Park. We have opportunities to do environmental restoration as well as website design/maintenance and databases needs. We are also in the process of building an outdoor classroom. Volunteers under the age of 18 must have parental permission.

## Strybing Arboretum Society (F,G)

9th Avenue at Lincoln Way, San Francisco  
415-661-1316 x312

**Email:** lfrank@strybing.org **Web:** www.strybing.org  
**Minimum age:** 14 **W/parental supervision:** 12  
**Bus lines:** N, 71, 44 **BART:** N Judah

At Strybing Arboretum Society, volunteers are often needed in the Nursery to work with gardeners and help with special garden events.

## United Farm Workers (G)

255 9th Street, San Francisco  
415-674-1884

**Email:** sfufw@earthlink.net **Web:** www.ufw.org  
**Minimum age:** 14 **W/parental supervision:** 14  
**Bus lines:** 38, Van Ness lines **BART:** Civic Center, Van Ness

The UFW educates the community regarding the struggle that farm workers endure. Volunteer opportunities include building and mobilizing for public support. Some activities include mobilizing for our annual event; Cesar Chavez Holiday Parade & Festival, Cesar Chavez Service & Learning Project and setting up a Speakers' Bureau Program in a number of schools in Northern California.

## Watchbison Committee (F,G)

Bison Paddock - Golden Gate Park  
415-681-3841

**Email:** carletonp@usfca.edu **Web:** www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/carlet  
**Minimum age:** 16 **W/parental supervision:** 10  
**Bus lines:** 5 (to Bison Paddock) **BART:**

The Watchbison Committee provides the herd of bison in Golden Gate Park a nice place to live and volunteers work with the SF Zoo and SF Rec and Park Department to make the bison's paddock a better wildlife habitat and to improve conditions for visitors. Volunteers do light manual labor: shoveling sand and dirt, pulling weeds, sweeping walkways, picking up trash, and cutting and hauling tree limbs. This is a great group project!