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Boards & Commissions

There are a variety of boards and commissions in which members of the public volunteer their service by providing their expertise and unique perspectives that assist the County in serving the public. They include:

- Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Airport Land Use Commission
- Alcohol & Drug Advisory Board
- Animal Care Advisory Commission
- Area Agency on Aging Serving Napa-Solano
- Arts Council
- Community Action Agency
- Cordelia Fire Protection District
- Delta Conservancy Board
- Dixon Fire Protection District
- Dixon Resource Conservation District
- Equal Employment Opportunity Committee
- Fair Board of Directors
- Historical Records Commission
- Library Advisory Council
- Local Child Care Planning Council
- Local Mental Health Board
- Montezuma Fire Protection District
- Nut Tree Airport Advisory Committee
- Park & Recreation Commission
- Senior Coalition of Solano County
- Silveyville Cemetery District
- Solano Children's Alliance
- Solano Partnership Against Violence
- Solano Resource Conservation District
- Solid Waste Independent Hearing Panel
- Suisun Fire Protection District
- Tri-City and County Citizens Advisory Committee
- Vacaville-Elmira Fire Protection District
- Workforce Development Board

Agriculture, Weights and Measures

Eleven volunteers worked 20 hours each for a combined 220 hours of service to the Agricultural, Weights and Measures department. Volunteers are all members of the Ag Advisory Committee which makes recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors.

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District Attorney

Twenty-one volunteers assisted the District Attorney's office with 7,676 hours of volunteer service in 2016. Whether as a post-bar or pre-bar intern, an attorney or investigative assistant, a volunteer to the support staff, or even one of the canine volunteers, these individuals augment the ability of the District Attorney's Office to provide services, such as legal research, responding to motions, assisting in misdemeanor and juvenile cases and helping discovery. All of the volunteers provided at least 80 hours of service, twelve provided more than 300 hours, two provided more than 500 hours and one individual provided more than one-thousand hours.

General Services – Nut Tree Airport

Forty-seven volunteers working with the General Services Airport division worked a combined 1,140 hours, including the Nut Tree Advisory Committee, Young Eagle Flights for Kids and Legends of Flight pancake breakfast. Volunteers worked an average of 25 hours.

General Services – Historical Records Collection and Preservation

Eight volunteers worked 98 hours in support of the County's Historical Records Collection and its mission to preserve and assist the public in accessing historic records.

Health and Social Services – Public Health Division

Public Health Services had eight volunteers who spent 4,854 hours of their time developing educational materials for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, tobacco cessation, chronic disease prevention and healthy stores for a healthy community program.

Health and Social Services – Behavioral and Mental Health Services

Behavioral and Mental Health Services had two volunteers serve 454 hours supporting programs that serve under-represented populations, including women and children. Volunteers also helped recruit, interview and assist in training In Home Support Services (IHSS) caregivers, including making recommendations on how to improve the program.

Library and Literacy Services

Combined, the Solano County Library and Literary Services programs benefits the most from community volunteers – more than any other department, program or service. With an army of 453 volunteers, the Solano County Library and Literacy Services provided 30,022 hours of service in 2016. The Literacy Program is in its 23rd year of helping adults improve reading, writing and English speaking skills in on-on-one or small group situations.

Other volunteer opportunities that benefit the eight libraries include:

- Adopt a Shelf: Volunteers ensure shelves are tidy with the materials for that group.
- Art Class Coordinator: Host a series of art workshops at the library, teaching art techniques and strategies.
- Bilingual Internet Docent: Help Spanish-speaking users navigate the Internet and online library resources.
- Clerical Help: Help with data entry, filing, typing and other behind-the-scenes" work.
- Craft Assistant: Assist with some craft preparations for children's story times.

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- Events Helper: Provide support during community outreach events, such as free flu shots, back-to-school events, farmers markets and Earth Day events, educating attendees on the benefits of the Library services.
- Grand People and Books: Volunteers of all ages share books and their love of reading with children visiting in the library.
- Home Work Help Coordinator: Help recruit young adults and adults to help tutor elementary and middle age students after school with their homework. Help facilitate pairing between tutors and students.
- Library Buddy: "Bring the Library" to the homebound by delivering books and other library materials thus returning them to the library as needed.
- Newsletter Distributer: Distribute flyers and other promotional materials monthly to locations in their local communities and Solano County.
- PAWS: Children are invited to read their favorite book to a furry four-pawed friend, a registered therapy dog. The reader receives a free book. Volunteer does the record keeping and coordinates the attendees.
- Storytime at the Mall: Volunteers assist with reading, singing and informing children and parents about Library Services at the Fairfield Solano Town Centre Mall.
- Lawyers in the Library: Local Lawyers offer free legal advice and referral. Lawyer consultations last up to 20 minutes. There is no "attorney client" relationship. Program is held in Vacaville and Vallejo Libraries.
- Friends of the Library: They are a nonprofit organization that promotes reading and learning through sponsorship of quality library services and events. They raise money through their book sales to help sponsor many of the children's programs and family events throughout the year.
- McCune Room Volunteers: The McCune Room is staffed entirely by volunteers with the mission of promoting and enhancing the McCune Collection through acquisitions and donations, both monetary and material; and also to maintain and preserve the lasting literary and artistic legacy left by Dr. McCune.
- Library Foundation: The mission of the Solano County Library Foundation is to support the programs of the Solano County Library and literacy and lifelong learning needs of the community it serves.
- Gadget Clinic volunteers help users navigate their gadgets giving technical help and answering questions about cell phones, tablets, computers, lap tops, Nooks, and Kindles.
- Chicks with Sticks and Knot Just Knitters help people learn how to knit and crochet and sew.
- Chess Club volunteers welcome everyone from beginners to seasoned players. Welcome beginners to seasoned players.
- Writers Club volunteers lead a group of writers who encourage each other and give them advice on how to get started and get published.

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Probation and Juvenile Hall Services

Forty-seven volunteers worked a collective 2,444 hours to support Probation and Juvenile Hall services. Volunteers provided a wide range of services to incarcerated youth, including religious and church services, mentoring, asset building, assistance with school, career planning and more. Volunteers help support the departments goal of providing programs and services that help offenders change their behavior and become productive members of the community.

Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender

Eight volunteers provided 305 hours each to the Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender's Office in 2016, totaling 2,440 hours supporting attorneys with clients and casework.

Resource Management – Parks and Recreation

The Solano County Parks and Recreation Division benefited from the work of more than 1,000 volunteers who contributed 6,421 hours of volunteer service between March 2016 and February 2017. The Solano County Parks Volunteer program included many volunteer efforts and events at Lake Solano Park and Lynch Canyon Open Space, coordinated through the efforts of the County's contracted Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator from the Solano Land Trust.

Many of the volunteers are trained docents and led monthly hikes: birds-of-prey (raptors) at Lynch Canyon, and creek birds and wildlife along the shores of Putah Creek at Lake Solano Park, and canoe tours that provide a unique way to see Lake Solano. Lake Solano volunteers built exhibits at the Lake Solano Nature Center. Lynch Canyon volunteers toiled away at fixing trails that had washed out, become overgrown with vegetation, or otherwise needing renovation. These efforts both make the trails look more attractive and improve the public's safety on the well-traveled trails.

Resource Management – Integrated Waste Management

The Department of Resource Management recruited 36 volunteers from Travis Air Force Base and the Solano community to provide assistance to the public at the County's Prescription Drug Take Back events in 2016. A total of 854 hours were spent helping the public properly get rid of their old, expired and un-wanted prescriptions in a safe and environmentally friendly way.

Sheriff – Coroner's Office / Office of Emergency Services

The Sheriff's Office is supported by a comprehensive volunteer support program, which includes 192 volunteers working in seven diverse program areas and accumulating 20,145 hours of volunteer service. The volunteer programs within the Sheriff's Office include:

- Search and Rescue (SAR) Trained volunteers who conduct missing persons and evidence searches in Solano County and neighboring counties when mutual aid requests are received
- Dive Team Advanced Scuba volunteers trained to dive in zero visibility water to retrieve drowning victims and evidence as well as rescuing people stranded or otherwise trapped in a water environment
- Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) Radio communications experts capable of transmitting emergency data when all cell, landline and standard radio equipment fails

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- Office of Emergency Service (OES) Volunteers Specially trained or experienced volunteers who support Emergency Operation Center (EOC) activations, exercises, training and programs in OES
- Sheriff's Active Volunteer Experience (SAVE) Volunteers assisting a myriad of Sheriff's Officer (SO) activities to include Animal Shelter volunteers, Coroner and armory
- Records Aid the SO's Records/Warrants branch.
- Coroner Assist the Coroner's Office staff in the conduct of daily business

Veterans Services Office

Twenty volunteers gave a combined 7,061 hours in 2016 to help members of the Solano veteran's community gain access to the programs and services to which they are entitled because of their service to this country.

UC Cooperative Extension – 4H Youth Development and Master Gardener Programs

The UC Cooperative Extension's volunteers service to the community as part of its 4-H Youth Development Program and Master Gardener programs. Volunteers serve in a variety of capacities, ranging project leaders, community club leaders, resource leaders and serving on the 4-H Leadership Council. Altogether, the 187 4-H volunteers have more than 1,212 combined years of volunteer service to the community. Although their exact number of hours was not tracked, it is estimated to be in the hundreds of thousands.

The 146 Master Gardener volunteers provided 7,954 hours of volunteer service, including research-based home gardening information to the public via workshops, events, school gardens, newsletters, blogs and hands-on demonstrations.

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