

Volunteer/Service-Learning Opportunities for Youth

Citizens for a Healthy Bay

Our goal as a Tacoma-based environmental nonprofit is to engage people to clean up, restore and protect Commencement Bay, its surrounding waters and natural habitat. We work closely with county and local government agencies, members of the community, businesses, and other nonprofit organizations to serve as an unbiased positive voice for the health and welfare of Commencement Bay and South Puget Sound.

<https://www.healthybay.org/>

Climate Reality Leadership Corps

Ordinary people face challenges. Climate Reality Leaders embrace them. Join us for a Climate Reality Leadership Corps training and work with former Vice President Al Gore and world-renowned scientists and communicators learning about the climate crisis and how together we can solve it. Bring your courage, commitment, and passion. Leave with the knowledge and tools to shape public opinion, inspire action in your community, and lead the global fight for solutions.

<https://www.climaterealityproject.org/training>

Earth Day South Sound 2021

The South Sound is coming together to celebrate, plant, and care for trees. Starting April 1st, we will embark on a virtual campaign to invite community members to participate in acknowledging and protecting the environment. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and on [Facebook](#) or submit your own Tree Story [here](#).

<https://earthdaysouthsound.org/>

Emergency Food Network-Mother Earth Farm

EFN's Mother Earth Farm is an 8-acre farm located in the beautiful Puyallup Valley. The farm organically grows over 100 varieties of fruits and vegetables for distribution to Pierce County food pantries. Food from the farm is typically available to our neighbors in need within 24-hours of harvest!

Volunteers at the farm assist with seeding, weeding, composting, irrigation, weeding, and harvesting.

[EFN's volunteer website.](#)

Forest Health Watch

The purpose of this program is to provide opportunities to contribute to research and keep forests healthy. Become a community scientist and help advance knowledge!

[Forest Health Watch](#)

Green Tacoma Partnership

Get involved to sustain natural spaces throughout the Tacoma area.

<https://forterra.org/subpage/green-tacoma-partnership>

Ikkatsu Project

Pollution, specifically plastic and other flotsam, is a very real threat to our oceans and to untouched ecosystems like those found on the coasts of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. It is hoped that surveys like the ones we have done and continue to do will assist in better understanding and remediating the problem. Raising awareness about this serious environmental issue, through print, films and data-gathering expeditions is one of the primary goals of the Ikkatsu Project.

*Current volunteer opportunities are on hold, but visit the website to sign-up and be included on event email alerts.

<https://www.ikkatsuproject.org/>

Metro Parks Tacoma

You'll find many ways to help keep Tacoma looking beautiful and green! Volunteer opportunities include: Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, Fort Nisqually, Tacoma Nature Center, Julia's Gulch, and many parks throughout the city.

<https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/volunteers/>

Mountaineers Tacoma Branch

The Mountaineers is a community of enthusiasts who love to spend time together outside and share their love of the outdoors with others. For more than a century, skilled outdoorsmen and women have volunteered to help others experience our wild spaces safely and responsibly while taking action to preserve the outdoor playgrounds we love.

<https://www.mountaineers.org/volunteer>

Northwest Youth Corps

Youth Community Program is a non-residential, day program for 15 to 19-year-olds. With the experience of field staff guiding them, participants complete service projects in their

own community each day and return home at night. Crews meet at a designated site every morning and evening, Monday through Friday. Members spend an average of 6 hours per day working and one hour participating in an educational lesson, from which they earn high school credit and a \$250/week stipend. During these 5-week sessions, participants learn new skills, challenge themselves, make new friends, and better their communities!

<https://www.nwyouthcorps.org/m/OurPrograms/soundtosummit>

Pierce Conservation District

Pierce Conservation District works with local landowners and public agencies to conserve natural resources that are essential to both our economy and our region's quality of life. Our collaborative efforts with citizen volunteers to create a just food system, improve water quality, promote sustainable agriculture, and recover wildlife habitat, is the heart of our mission.

[PCD Events and Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Pierce County Library System

You can gain skills, meet new people and make a valuable contribution to your community by volunteering with Pierce County Library System. In 2018, 405 volunteers provided over 4,152 hours of service in support for Pierce County Library System.

<https://www.piercecountylibrary.org/about-us/volunteering/Default.htm>

Pierce County Parks and Recreation

If you love the outdoors, our parks, trails and natural areas are a great way to volunteer your services. Your skills and talents are matched with your work preference to obtain a role that satisfies you and best fulfills the mission of Pierce County Parks.

[PC Parks and Rec Volunteer Opportunities](#)

<https://www.piercecountywa.org/114/Parks-Recreation>

Puget Creek Restoration Society

Puget Creek Restoration Society protects, enhances, and restores the Puget Creek Watershed and other streams, wetlands, and green spaces. We serve the South Puget Sound communities and invite their participation through hands-on restoration, research, education, and advocacy and by promoting a sense of stewardship.

<http://www.pugetcreek.org/volunteer.html>

Sierra Club Tatoosh Group

The Tatoosh group serves all of Pierce County, and represents our members who live on the Key Peninsula and in Gig Harbor in the west, the City of Tacoma, in the suburbs of Puyallup, Lakewood and Spanaway, and rural towns like Carbonado, Ashford, and Roy. Tatoosh Group sponsors public meetings, activist opportunities, and presentations on environmental topics. We volunteer to restore natural areas and organize outings to explore the great outdoors.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/washington/tatoosh-group-pierce-county>

<https://www.sierraclub.org/washington/volunteer-form>

Student Conservation Association

Every bit of the earth needs saving, even those portions that are right in your neighborhood. SCA's Community Programs offer you a way to make an enduring environmental impact while commuting from home to local sites in your community. You'll make friends, improve the health of your city, and start on your way to becoming a leader in the local conservation movement. Community programs will also set you on the path to other SCA opportunities, like National Crews and Conservation Internships.

[Community Crews | The Student Conservation Association \(thesca.org\)](https://thesca.org)

Surfrider Foundation

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of our world's oceans, waves and beaches through a powerful activist network. Founded in 1984 by a handful of visionary surfers, the Surfrider Foundation now maintains over 50,000 members and 83 chapters across the United States and Puerto Rico, with international affiliates in Australia, Europe, Japan and Brazil.

<https://southsound.surfrider.org/>

Sunrise Tacoma

Organize. Vote. Strike! We're a movement of young people working to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process.

<https://www.sunrisemovementtacoma.org/>

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Connect with your community as a volunteer! Help us protect and improve the health of all people and places in Pierce County. Want to know more? Learn how to apply below.

<https://www.tpchd.org/i-want-to-/jobs/volunteer>

Tacoma Tree Foundation

The Tacoma Tree Foundation empowers community members to plant and care for trees in Tacoma. We see trees and plants as part of a healthy and livable community.

<https://www.tacomatreefoundation.org/projects>

Tahoma Audubon Society

The Tahoma Audubon Society was chartered in 1969. The Tahoma Audubon Society advocates for the protection of wildlife and promotes conservation through education and activities that enrich its member's experiences in and with the natural world.

<https://www.tahomaaudubon.org/volunteer>

Transportation Choices Coalition

Founded in 1993, Transportation Choices Coalition is a policy and advocacy nonprofit dedicated to making transportation accessible to all in Washington State. We pass policies that support more transit, bike, and pedestrian improvement at the state, regional, and local levels.

We are leading the way to build a transportation system that connects people to jobs, education, housing, health care, communities, and each other. We bring together a variety of partners from across the state to work towards a common goal, more transportation choices that get you where you need to go.

<https://transportationchoices.org/get-involved/>

Washington Trails Association

WTA welcomes everyone who wants to lend a hand and help out on trail-whether you've had years of experience or you are brand new to tools. Find how to sign up for work parties, get details about backcountry trips and find answers to frequently asked questions.

We look forward to seeing you on trail!

<https://www.wta.org/get-involved/volunteer>

WSU Puyallup - Pierce County 4-H

4-H is the youth development education program of Washington State University Extension, which is conducted jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, your state land grant university (WSU) and Pierce County. Today 4-H is everywhere—in cities, suburbs, small towns, and rural communities. In the 21st century, 4-H serves a broad clientele with expanded program using a variety of ways to “learn by doing.”

<https://extension.wsu.edu/pierce/4-h-youth-development-program-pierce-county/>

12,000 Raingardens

Washington State University and Stewardship Partners are leading a groundbreaking campaign to install 12,000 rain gardens in the Seattle/Puget Sound Region.

You can actively participate in this exciting campaign by installing one or more rain gardens in your community. Rain gardens will help your immediate surroundings because they:

- Reduce water pollution
- Prevent flooding
- Increase home values
- Make for beautiful, low-maintenance landscapes
- Help your community save millions of dollars in pollution clean-up and expensive stormwater projects

Rain gardens work like a native forest by capturing and infiltrating polluted runoff from rooftops, driveways, and other hard surfaces. Meeting our campaign goal of 12,000 rain gardens in Seattle/Puget Sound would soak up 160 million gallons of polluted runoff to protect our waterways, significantly helping stop the stormwater crisis that is threatening our waterways. Help us reduce water pollution and prevent flooding in the Puget Sound area by installing a rain garden in your area soon.

[Raingarden Volunteer Opportunities](#)

<https://www.12000raingardens.org/>

Does your group or organization want to be listed here? Please contact Kari Ann Elling kariann.elling@piercecountywa.gov to be part of this resource for youth throughout Pierce County.