

VOLUNTEER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How old do I have to be to volunteer for a client-facing role at YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley?

- You must be 18 years of age or above to work directly with clients.

I'm under the age of 18. Can I still volunteer?

- Yes! Many of our annual events are open to volunteers aged 15 and over with the consent of a parent or guardian.

Do I need special training?

- All volunteers interested in working with clients must first complete the CA State Certification for Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Counselors. YWCA provides this 75-hour training three times per year.
- Volunteers who are not directly interacting with clients (ex: signature event volunteers) do not need the CA State Certification for Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Counselors but may be required to take part in an orientation, dependent upon the role.

Are there other types of volunteer opportunities available?

- Yes! YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley offers a variety of opportunities to fit a range of time commitments, skill sets and interests, including one-time projects, support for our signature events, and weekly commitments.

What are the requirements to volunteer?

- Each type of volunteering has slightly different requirements ranging from a basic registration form (Event Volunteering) to a full background check and onboarding process including shadowing and completion of the 75-Hour SA/DV Counselor Certification.

What qualities do you look for in your volunteers?

- We are seeking compassionate and empathetic individuals who value diversity, are responsive to cultural differences, and have the ability to approach others with strong values of non-judgement, care, and respect. Strong interpersonal communication skills are a must.

Can my friends or colleagues and I volunteer as a group?

- Yes! Group volunteering opportunities are limited, but often can be built in collaboration with your group to fill a need within our organization, while showcasing any skills and/or resources that you wish to share with us. To get started with a business, community or corporate group project, contact us at volunteer@yourywca.org.

Where are your volunteer opportunities located?

- We have volunteer opportunities in Santa Clara County (in and around the City of San Jose) and in Marin County.

We look forward to hearing from you, and are happy to answer any additional questions you might have.