



WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.pinellascounty.org/volserv

Current Opportunities

- Special Event Driver
 - Animal Service Volunteer
 - Welcome Center Assistant
 - Brooker Creek Volunteer
 - Weedon Island Weekend Warriors
 - Heritage Village Gift Shop
 - Auxiliary Rangers
 - VIP - Volunteer In Parks
 - Garden Maintenance
 - 4-H Volunteers
 - Volunteers at Airport
 - Master Volunteer in Food and Nutrition (*new position)
- <http://www.pinellascounty.org/volserv/dptjdesc.htm>

Have you considered?

...Supporting one of the special walkathons throughout the year?

- *Step Out to Fight Diabetes* on October 6 at the Tampa Convention Center River-walk,
- *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* on Oct . 27 at N. Straub Park ,
- *Heart Walk* on Nov. 10 at Raymond James Stadium.

This is a great way to raise money for a good cause along side Pinellas County Employee Volunteers.

Long Term Volunteers Fill Key Positions

Here in Pinellas County we are fortunate enough to have 967 individuals classified as long term or regular service volunteers. You are special people who have stepped up to the plate and have given that little bit extra. You have gone through placement interviews, county orientation an FBI background check, and often extensive training to qualify you to perform duties for the county.



Long Term Volunteers - Don & Betty Nolan

Volunteers don't replace employees but allow them to expand the support provided to the public. You perform essential tasks in a wide range of positions. Indoors and outdoors, weekdays and weekends, you are out there providing essential services to the residents of the county.

Most commendable is the fact that you give your time and talent freely and often when it is inconvenient for you. Conducting a field hike in the heat of an August afternoon is not always the most desirable option.

Your work sites extend literally from the north at Brooker Creek Preserve to Fort DeSoto Park at the southern tip of the county, and a lot of places in between.

The majority of you, about 600, work in mid-county at the County

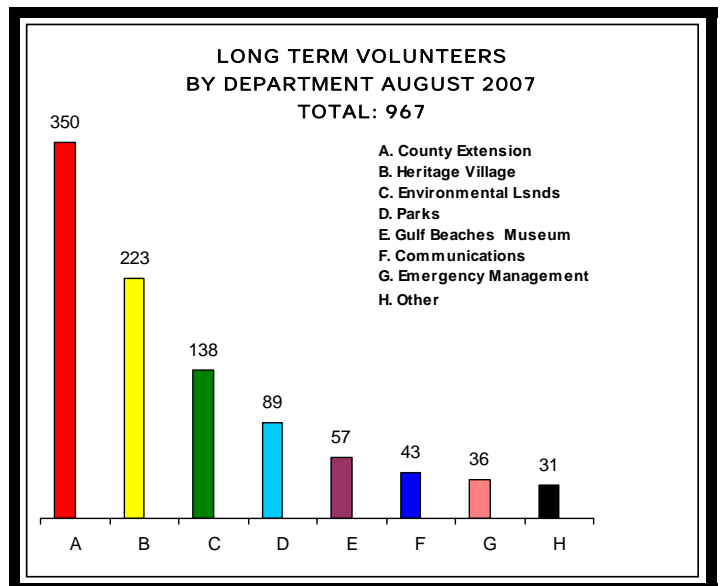
Being a county volunteer requires motivation and dedication. Not everyone qualifies for the program and some cannot stay the course. Your work fulfills a public support function and is not just a social outing. You are special people who give with both your heart and hands.

The bottom line is that that you serve an essential function in Pinellas County and we appreciate your work! Big time!!

Tanks
Joe LeGath
Volunteer Services Manager

Extension, the Florida Botanical Gardens and Heritage Village. A number of you volunteer at more than one location, for example working Wednesday at the Botanical Gardens and on Saturday at Weedon Island preserve.

The chart below shows how our volunteers are assigned throughout the county.



Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

We are proud to recognize the following winners of the Lifetime Achievement Award. Individuals were nominated based on their lifetime achievement and contributions as volunteers for Pinellas County. Their names are inscribed on a plaque on permanent display in the courthouse lobby at 315 Court Street, Clearwater..

Bob Abben has been volunteering for Pinellas County Extension for 13 years now. He is a selfless volunteer who has contributed 6,518 hours. He works with other master gardeners (MGs) to collect, clean and package seeds of native butterfly plants and provides these seeds free to schools and parks. His educational programs for the public are very popular. Bob has been repeatedly asked to present at Sunken Gardens, Beckett Lake Nursery and other locations throughout



Bob Abben at Extension



Don Pickett at Wall Springs Park

the county. Bob is a mentor for new master gardeners and a wonderful ambassador for Extension.

Don Pickett has served as an auxiliary trail ranger for over eight years. He has devoted thousands of hours performing such duties as patrolling by bicycle on the Pinellas Trail. He has volunteered at many park functions including serving as archaeology field and lab assistant on two major Cultural Resource Assessment Surveys at Wall Springs Park and helping with parking and crowd control at many special events. Don also serves on the Pinellas Trail Board of Directors.

Chuck Scaffidi is a tireless volunteer who has contributed 8,249 hours in the seven years he has been volunteering at Extension. He handles special computer projects for the office and puts together and edits the monthly master gardener newsletter, *The Green Leaf*. He was instrumental in the conversion of the reporting of volunteer hours from paper to the new VSP5 system for Extension. He worked tirelessly on the organization of the Master Gardener Advisory Association. Chuck also serves as a tour guide and coordinator of tours for the Florida Botanical Gardens.

Chuck Scaffidi at Extension



Sam Skemp & Bernadette Christian at Florida Botanical Gardens

Sam Skemp Jr. has been an outstanding volunteer at Extension for 21 years contributing over 18,400 hours of service as a master gardener and landscaper, MG mentor, school educator who has developed special curriculum, special events volunteer as well as serving on the MG Advisory Association and the Extension Advisory Council. Sam has received over 11 special awards for his service throughout the years including Volunteer of the Year from Extension and the Partners in Public Service Award from Pinellas County government.

Congratulations Bob, Don, Chuck and Sam!

We need your help!!!
Please send us your e-mail address. We are building a comprehensive e-mail list for up-to-date volunteer opportunities and we will also be able to e-mail you pertinent information and this newsletter! Update your address in VSP5 and e-mail it to: volunteers@pinellascounty.org

We're starting a new column—*Humor in the Volunteer Corps*. Send your funny, true-to-life stories about volunteering to: Volunteer Services c/o Dan Shannon 333 Chestnut St. Clearwater, FL 33756

Coordinator's Comments from Sandy Herron

We recently received the nicest letter in our office and I wanted to share an excerpt from it. It is from one of our outstanding long-term volunteers.

"On my first day to volunteer with the county in July 2001, I had the good fortune of being placed at the Florida Botanical Gardens. I had a wonderful leader there and I have learned much from my association with this person.

There have been numerous studies published about volunteerism, and I can personally

attest to the benefits. We volunteers love lending a helping hand, and giving back to the community. Volunteer work helps us remain disciplined, socially active and mentally alert. Our skills and talents are maintained and often enhanced. We continue to learn and grow from the experiences and the assignments we accept. We are enriched through the people we meet. I could go on and on. It is definitely true: We get back more than we give. Value is added to our lives in many ways.

...Thank you for the opportunities to serve. I look forward to a 10 year pin!"

It is so heartwarming to receive letters and comments such as these. Volunteering is a win/win situation. This letter sums it up so succinctly. We Pinellas County employees and citizens reap daily the benefits of our loyal volunteer corps.

Thank you so much for being a part of our team!

Sandy Herron
Volunteer Services Coordinator



"Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Ghandi

Visit us at:
www.volunteers.org