OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE PEOPLE WITH PASSION AND A MISSION

More than 350,000 visitors each year are warmly welcomed to Mission San Juan Capistrano and assisted by our caring volunteers who dedicate over 8,000 hours a year to keeping the Mission a vibrant place of inspiration, education, and preservation.

Mission leadership is grateful for the special role our volunteers play here every day and are grateful for their commitment of time to keep the Mission relevant, keep California history alive and our gates open to an appreciative world audience.

Today we have more than 300 individuals who help. Each and every volunteer makes a difference no matter the role they take on. Many of our volunteers help in several different areas. What makes Mission San Juan Capistrano a top work place is its emphasis on service and making sure the landmark is represented with the spirit of Franciscan hospitality.

These core values are directed to one another, as well as our guests. The Mission Preservation Foundation looks forward to hosting our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the El Adobe restaurant to celebrate every volunteer. This year on January 27th, San Juan Capistrano Mayor Derek Reeve and the entire City Council of San Juan Capistrano will join us as we congratulate the many achievements of our volunteers:

Mission Docent Society
Mission San Juan Capistrano Docents make California history come alive for approximately 68,000 school children and adult chaperones each year.

Artifacts Council
Interested in history, design, construction, and hands-on creation of exhibit spaces and period rooms, these members are greatly appreciated for their efforts on special projects and fundraising efforts to support preservation of the landmark.

Gardening Angels
Our Gardening Angels care for our Mission plants and flowers alongside O’Connell Landscape Maintenance to ensure the setting is pristine. The dedicated group can be found rain or shine on the grounds each Wednesday morning pruning, mulching, fertilizing, and planting to help make the Mission gardens stunning for guests.

Women’s Guild
The Guild works on special activities and fundraising at the Mission. The Guild’s crowning achievement is the publication of a beautiful, award-winning cookbook. The Bells are Ringing - A Call to Table, now in its fifth printing and available at the Mission Store.

Curiosity Carts
These volunteers work at information carts to answer the lively questions of visitors and fourth graders working on their California mission report.

Special Events
Many volunteers help to sell opportunity drawing tickets at special events, or assist in set up and tear down for festivals and special programs. Native American Basket Weavers -- descendents from the original builders of the Mission, the Aṣajeḥemen people -- showcase their traditions regularly and teach about the many ways and uses of basket weaving. These artisans share their skill sets and answer questions about history of the area’s indigenous people.

On behalf of the Mission Preservation Foundation we invite you to join our Mission family, and become an active volunteer working with others who are committed to preserving and celebrating the past for the future generations to come to enjoy and learn.

For more information about how to make a difference, please contact Pat March, Volunteer Program Administrator at (949) 234-1322 or pmarch@missionsjc.com.