



Presidio Trust Volunteer Opportunity

ART DOCENT

Position Overview

The Presidio Trust is looking for enthusiastic individuals who have a passion for art and the natural and cultural history of the Presidio and San Francisco, and a desire to share this knowledge with the public. Docents will welcome the public, lead tours, support public programs and provide information about a range of art works and background on the Presidio. The opportunities for docents include activities in both stationary indoor and outdoor settings, as well as outdoor walking tours. Docents can self-select their preferred activity — stationary vs. walking programs.

One of the focal points will be the collection of Andy Goldsworthy's artworks, in particular *Tree Fall*, the artist's most recent addition to the Presidio located in a Civil War-era powder magazine at the Main Post. Docents will greet the public and provide background on the history of the building and surroundings, the making of the artwork, and background on the artist. Docents may also lead walking tours of the other two Goldsworthy installations, *Spire* and *Wood Line*, as well as tours and associated public programs for works from other artists, including temporary exhibitions. Additionally, docents will serve as ambassadors for the entire Presidio, helping to encourage the public to explore this unique national park.

Responsibilities

- Greet and welcome the public to *Tree Fall* by Andy Goldsworthy, including background on the history of the building and surroundings, Presidio Forest, artist, and making of the artwork
- Answer questions about the Presidio, art within the park, the Presidio Trust, the FOR SITE Foundation, other partner organizations, artists and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Interact with the public in a professional, friendly, informative manner that represents the Presidio Trust in a positive way
- Orient visitors to the Presidio and assist with visitor tracking
- Use tablet technology to enhance visitor experience
- Support and possibly lead guided walks of the other Goldsworthy works, *Spire* and *Wood Line*, and/or other art exhibitions in the park
- Support periodic public programs associated with temporary art installations, including greeting visitors, assisting with guided walks led by artists or resource experts, and helping to staff an evening lecture or other event which may include large groups of people

Commitment Expected

Two 3-hour docent shifts/month on weekdays and/or weekends for at least one year. Docents must attend at least six 2-hour training sessions, including one Saturday field trip, within the first three months of the position.

Required

- Good interpersonal, public speaking and communication skills
- Ability to interact with the public in a professional, friendly, informative manner that represents the Presidio Trust in a positive way
- General interest in the Presidio and art/art about place
- Comfortable with standing/sitting for long periods of time
- Ability to read maps and provide directions and have good way finding skills
- Access to email and a computer for communication and to access online training materials
- Willingness to wear Presidio Trust volunteer attire, including a vest, jacket, hat and nametag

Training

Docents will be provided with a series of initial training sessions with opportunities for further learning throughout their volunteer position. Training will be provided by the Presidio Trust and various partners. The training program covers a range of subjects including Presidio history, general Presidio information, touring techniques, guided walks, videos, background reading, field trips, shuttle tours, and other activities. Resource materials will be provided.

Why Apply

- Opportunity to expand your knowledge of the Presidio and its art through physical movement and public interaction
- Represent the Presidio by helping local, national and international visitors develop a better understanding and enjoyment of the park
- Improve your health by being active
- Make new friends and join a team who share similar interests
- Support your national park.
- Attend docent gatherings where volunteers will have the opportunity to socialize with other docents and learn more about the park and its vast array of resources for public use
- Be part of a growing volunteer community dedicated to stewarding the Presidio and making it a welcoming place for park visitors

To Apply

Go to the Presidio Trust website, www.presidio.gov/docents, click on "Docents & Ambassadors" under Volunteer Activities, and fill out the online Art in the Park Docent application.

Questions? Email volunteer@presidiotrust.gov or call 1-415-561-5332.