



## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY TRAIL AMBASSADOR**

### ***Are you passionate about parks, hiking, exploring, and interacting with people?***

Join like-minded volunteers and park professionals to help share the Presidio, while getting great exercise and a dose of nature! We are looking for Trail Ambassador volunteers who are excited and curious to learn and explore the Presidio, and help a broad range of individuals and groups do the same.

Trail Ambassadors support the Presidio Trust Park Programs Department which oversees public programming and events intended to welcome the public and provide meaningful and memorable park experiences to people of all ages and backgrounds. Specifically, the Park Programs team oversees art, recreation & wellness, signature outdoor events and community programs. The team also manages special park uses/permitting, and in December 2016 in partnership with the National Park Service and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy will support the new Presidio Visitor Center.

### **PRESIDIO RECREATION AND WELLNESS**

The Presidio has 1,500 acres to exercise, play, and get away from it all. The park's network of 24 miles of trails and 15 miles of bikeways offers many different experiences - from the sandy bayshore to the rugged coastal bluffs to enchanting forests and creeks to historic sites and iconic views. Some paths, such as the California Coastal Trail, Bay Area Ridge Trail, Bay Trail and the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, are part of regional, state and even international trail networks - connecting to open spaces throughout the Bay Area and as far as Mexico and the Oregon border. The Presidio also hosts the only overnight campground in San Francisco, picnic areas, playing fields, award winning restaurants and a lodge, a public golf course, and offers an oasis of nature at the edge of San Francisco.

### **POSITION OVERVIEW**

The Presidio Trust is looking for enthusiastic individuals who have a passion for hiking, the natural and cultural history of the Presidio and San Francisco, and a desire to share this knowledge with the public. Trail Ambassadors will provide a welcoming and informed presence on Presidio trails including high visitor use areas of the park, such as the Main Post. Responsibilities of a Trail Ambassador include providing information to park visitors, lead or co-lead tours, support with way-finding, recommend hikes, bike rides and scenic overlooks, describe available programs and visitor services, as well as present an overview of the Presidio history, natural resources, and general knowledge of the Presidio. There will be a range of route options available for Ambassadors – from urban trails to more rugged. Ambassadors may also provide feedback on their observations from the field to help the Presidio Trust better manage the park. Trail Ambassadors encourage the public to explore this unique national park.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Greet and welcome the public to the Presidio
- Answer questions about the Presidio, the Presidio Trust, the Presidio's trail network, partner organizations, 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
- Assist with visitor tracking and feedback using a clicker-counter and activity sheet
- Support and co-lead guided walks

- Support periodic public programs and guided hikes, including greeting visitors, presenting information, and staffing information tables or the Roving Ranger (mobile trailhead)
- Become knowledgeable about the Presidio including its history, projects, programs, dining, lodging, museums, art exhibits/installations, landmarks, the locations of restrooms and water, schedule and stop locations for the free PresidiGo shuttle system, relevant MUNI routes, and other visitor services and programs
- Develop a thorough understanding of the Presidio's trail network to include mileage, time, difficulty, and fastest routes to key visitor destinations, scenic routes, and scenic overlooks in order to help visitors with wayfinding, orientation, and to suggest hiking or cycling options
- Carry print materials about Presidio offerings, including maps of the park, and interpret them for park visitors

### **COMMITMENT EXPECTED**

Two 2-hour shifts/month during peak visitor use days and hours (including weekdays and weekends) for at least one year. Ambassadors must attend at least six training sessions and shadow two, 2-hour shifts within the first three months of the position.

### **REQUIRED**

- Excellent interpersonal, public speaking and communication skills
- General interest in the Presidio, hiking, and the Presidio trail network
- Comfortable standing and walking for several hours at a time, while carrying a bag of collateral materials (maps, brochures, etc.)
- Ability to hike up and down steep grades on typical hiking trail treads
- 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
- Positive attitude
- Reliable

### **TRAINING**

Trail Ambassadors will be provided with a series of six (6) initial training sessions on weekday nights and weekend days, beginning October 2016. Trainings will be provided by the Presidio Trust and various partners. The training program covers a range of subjects including Presidio history, general Presidio information, detailed information on the trail and bikeway network, touring techniques, guided walks, videos, background reading, field trips, shuttle tours, and other activities. Resource materials will be provided. After the training sessions, Trail Ambassadors will shadow 2 shifts with an experienced Trail Ambassador or Presidio Trust intern or staff member.

Enrichment opportunities are offered periodically after the initial training sessions to promote continued learning. Enrichment opportunities explore themes relevant to the volunteer position including behind the scenes tours, talks with park specialists, or enjoying social time with other volunteers, staff, and partners.

### **WHY APPLY**

- Support your national park
- Opportunity to expand your knowledge of the Presidio, its trail network and many other visitor-oriented programs, services and facilities
- Assist local, national and international visitors develop a better understanding and enjoyment of the park
- Improve your health by hiking, being outdoors and being active

- Make new friends and join a growing volunteer community dedicated to stewarding the Presidio and making it a welcoming place for park visitors

#### **TO APPLY**

Send an email to [volunteer@presidiotrust.gov](mailto:volunteer@presidiotrust.gov) and our Volunteer Program Coordinator will get back to you with instructions for applying.

#### **ABOUT THE PRESIDIO + THE PRESIDIO TRUST**

Guardian of the Golden Gate for more than 200 years, the Presidio of San Francisco is a place of service and possibility. Now a distinctive part of the national park system, this magnificent American landmark invites visitors to be inspired by its beauty and to participate in a variety of programs that draw on its history and natural resources. The Presidio is also home to a vibrant community of people who work and live in the park. The Presidio is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, one of the world's largest national parks in an urban setting, spanning over 80,000 acres north and south of San Francisco's Golden Gate.

The Presidio Trust is an innovative federal agency created to save the Presidio and transform it for a new national purpose. The Trust's vision is that the Presidio will be forever a public place: vital to the Bay Area, important to all Americans, and recognized for achieving broad benefits for the nation. To learn more, visit [www.presidio.gov](http://www.presidio.gov).