

Castro Adobe Wants You



Are you interested in California's history and culture? Are you looking for a fun and unique way to give something back to your community? Do you enjoy working with people of all ages, backgrounds, and national origins? If you answered "yes" and are at least 18 years old, you are eligible to apply for a volunteer job with Rancho San Andres Castro Adobe State Historic Park here in Watsonville, CA.

Volunteers help interpret California's material and cultural artifacts. They welcome visitors from all over the world and work with school children in our communities. They also assist with annual events at the Castro Adobe. Becoming a member of our volunteer program is an exciting and rewarding experience that will bring you a lifetime of enjoyment and rewarding experiences.

What is a docent?

Docents are highly trained volunteers who interpret the cultural, natural, and historical resources for visitors. One of the rewarding and challenging aspects of being a docent is the opportunity for ongoing education, much of which cannot be obtained elsewhere. Because docents are trained to enhance the educational experience of visitors, they provide a valuable service to visitors and school children alike. Each docent is encouraged to add his or her own unique and individual approach and experiences when interacting with our visitors.

Whether you know very little or a lot about California's culture and history, you will have the opportunity to learn more and share your knowledge with our visitors. In addition, California State Parks staff is available for continued learning opportunities. Periodic field trips to events and cultural sites provide additional learning experiences; there are also fun and educational social events scheduled throughout the year.

What does it take to become a docent?

- A positive, enthusiastic attitude about history and people
- Willingness to share your skills and knowledge with visitors
- Volunteer a minimum of 10 hours per month

What do docents do?

- Answer questions and assist with interpretation of artifacts and photographs
- Demonstrate cultural skills and participate in special activities
- Assist with special events
- Conduct research and coordinate special projects
- Interpret exhibits based on group interest and inquiry
- Demonstrate and teach arts and crafts skills
- Assist with set-up, clean-up
- Greet visitors and answer questions
- Preparing interpretive materials for special events

Docent training includes:

- Knowledge of specific history and culture facts about the State Park
- Mentoring with trained docents
- Skills and techniques working with school groups.

Docent benefits:

- Free training on museum culture, history, and contemporary issues
- A State Parks Volunteer badge upon passing the training course
- Volunteer hour pins and complementary park entrance passes are earned based on number of hours worked
- Social activities and field trips
- Chance to meet new and interesting people

How do I become a docent?

The first step is easy, all you have to do is call **(831) 226-9669** or drop us an email castroadobe.shp@parks.ca.gov expressing your interest.

