Virtual Short-Term Community Service Opportunities During COVID-19

Many non-profit organizations offer opportunities to use your skills and talents to volunteer virtually during COVID-19! While the campus is not recommending in-person community service at this time, you can still make a difference!

As always, please follow general safety precautions and the CDC guidelines currently in place.

CSI Sponsored Service

Write letters to Seniors with St. Paul's Seniors

Did someone say free?! The Center for Student Involvement is hosting a card making project for St. Paul’s Seniors. Want to participate? There are three ways you can do so:

(1) Already have supplies? Simply write a letter, take a picture, and mail

(2) Don’t have supplies but want to type a letter? No problem! Open a google document, write a letter, and share it with omichael@ucsd.edu. I will print it off and send it in for you.

(3) Want to get a packet of supplies in the mail? All you have to do is fill out the following form. After you have done that we will mail you a packet with all the supplies you will need!

Once you make your cards email us a picture ucsdservice@gmail.com and post on your Instagram story (#ucdsunshine4seniors) nominate 3 friends to do the same! Be sure to tag @getinvolveducsd so we can feature you on our Instagram story!

Sign up for Sunshine for Seniors here. Information on Sunshine for Seniors here.
Local Service Opportunities

Please note: These opportunities below are not sponsored by the Center for Student Involvement. As always, please follow general safety precautions and CDC guidelines.

Curate online content with Words Alive!

Help us create and curate online content for our Story Station & QuaranTEENS! COVID-19 has drastically changed our day to day lives in a very short period of time. Help our students and families learn to navigate this new normal by creating engaging online content, from writing prompts to read alouds to art projects. Whether we’re quarantined or social distancing, we’re all in this together and our community needs your support more than ever.

Design projects with San Diego River Park Foundation

San Diego River Park Foundation has a multitude of ideas of ways you can support their efforts to care for the San Diego River: building a bat house, helping with GIS mapping, editing videos, leaving them a review on Yelp, and more!

Support older adults with Project C.A.R.E

Social Isolation among older adults is on the rise. Frail, older adults and/or those with physical or mental disabilities who are socially isolated are at high risk of abuse and neglect. Project C.A.R.E. identifies and supports frail older adults and/or individuals with physical or mental disabilities to prevent social isolation, loneliness, neglect and abuse. Project C.A.R.E. is a safety net program for older persons and persons with disabilities and operates by maintaining effective contact and empowering individuals to remain as independent as possible in a safe environment.

Center for Student Involvement at UC San Diego | getinvolved@ucsd.edu
National/Global Service Opportunities

Please note: These opportunities below are not sponsored by the Center for Student Involvement. As always, please follow general safety precautions and the CDC guidelines currently in place.

**Be voice with AARP’s Friendly Voice**
Through AARP’s Community Connections Resource, volunteers with Friendly Voice will be able to identify and execute calls with older adults experiencing isolation or just seeking a friendly conversation in these challenging times.

**Reach Out and Read**
Join in the nationwide #ReadTogether challenge to help ease children’s anxiety from the pandemic. By making reading a daily activity, we help every child have the healthy foundation they need for success.

**Provide life-saving support with The Trevor Project**
In line with The Trevor Project’s mission, volunteers can staff various crisis intervention platforms to provide life-saving support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer & questioning (LGBTQ) youth.

**GoProject**
Remote volunteers who are fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese, and/or Spanish to help with multi-lingual document translation and family outreach as well as providing remote volunteer tutoring services.

**Use your language skills with Tarjimly**
Millions of refugees and people in need of humanitarian assistance struggle with language barriers. Volunteer your language skills to help give them on-demand language access.

**Translate documents with Translators Without Borders**
Translators without Borders (TWB) is a non-profit organization offering language and translation support for humanitarian and development agencies, and other non-profit organizations on a global scale. You can volunteer with TWB if you are fluent in at least one language other than your native language.

TWB currently needs COVID-19 translation support in the following languages and more: Chinese, (Simplified and Traditional), Thai, Tagalog, Bahasa Indonesian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, Malay, Myanmar (Burmese), Hindi, Bangla

Apply to become a volunteer translator [here](#). This opportunity requires online training and no commitment.
**Assist via app with Be My Eyes**
People with visual impairments or reduced eyesight – many of whom are older adults – have lost access to their regular support systems due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Be My Eyes app allows volunteers and companies to “be the eyes” of someone in need and quickly get them the support. This opportunity requires online training and no commitment.

**Engage in Community Mapping with Missing Maps**
To map the most vulnerable places in the developing world, in order that international and local NGOs and individuals can use the maps and data to better respond to crises affecting the areas. This opportunity requires online training and no commitment.

**Write letters with Operation Gratitude**
Every year, Operation Gratitude sends 300,000+ individually addressed Care Packages to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen deployed overseas, to their children left behind, and to First Responders, New Recruits, Veterans, Wounded Heroes, and their Care Givers. Each package contains snacks, hygiene products, entertainment, and handmade items, as well as personal letters of support. This opportunity requires no online training and no commitment.

**Participate in research projects on Zooniverse**
The Zooniverse is the world’s largest and most popular platform for people-powered research. Examples of projects include turning a collection of handwritten correspondence between anti-slavery activists in the 19th century into texts that can be more easily read and transcribing data from hand-written museum specimen labels to map biodiversity in the Midwestern US. This opportunity requires online training and no commitment.

**Tutor students virtually with UPChieve**
UPchieve is a free, online platform that connects low-income high school students in the US with live, volunteer coaches (that’s you!) any time they need it. Our volunteer experience was designed to be ultra-flexible because we believe it should be easy for awesome people like you to help students succeed. You can help students from anywhere with an internet connection: whether that be from your desk at work or from the comfort of your couch! This opportunity requires online training and low time commitment.

**Listen, support, and empower with Crisis Text Line**
Crisis Text Line is the free, 24/7 text line for people in crisis in the United States. The service is powered by volunteer Crisis Counselors who work remotely — anywhere with a computer and secure internet connection works. This opportunity requires a sizeable commitment of 200 hours and would be a great experience for volunteers interested in mental health and counseling.
Further Community Engagement

- **Respond to xenophobia** and racism resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Call your elected representatives regarding issues with COVID-19 (elaborate here)
  - Find Yours Here: https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative
- Share resources with community members seeking financial, emotional, or basic needs support
  - Community resource guide: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mHMjAQrT_KmlCgTWKZ2F5jINqxEzlqM7lBPnn0O5ZO8/edit#heading=h.408vjoe6iq1d
- Supporting mutual aid networks of San Diego
  - At this moment of global pandemic, it is evident that structures in our society leading to inequality and systemic oppression create chaos and harm everyone. Creating new structures of collective care can help us through this period, and engaging in mutual aid is a way for us to build new social relationships that recognize the importance of our shared well-being (**American Friends Service Committee**).