



VOLUNTEER MONTHLY

SAN FRANCISCO ZEN CENTER

First clean, then zazen. — Suzuki Roshi

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at SFZC's City Center and/or Green Gulch Farm. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities available and are happy to find one that aligns with your interests, talents, ability, and availability.

Your first step is to fill out the short application form [on our website](#). Once we receive your Volunteer Application, we will connect you with a staff member who will provide more information, answer any questions you may have, and help schedule your first volunteer shift.

Volunteering is a wonderful way to step more deeply into community life and discover more about yourself and your practice. SFZC treasures our volunteers, several who have been coming for years (even decades!) to help bring practice and the teachings of Suzuki Roshi to all who seek them.



New Opportunities This Month

Family Sangha Summer Retreat at Tassajara

Dates: Tuesday, July 28–Sunday, August 2

Tassajara

Contact: Meikyo Chelsea True, MA, LMFT, Family Programs Director at family.sangha@sfzc.org or 707-540-1702

Family Sangha is seeking volunteers with some practice experience to support this summer's [SFZC Family Sangha retreat](#) at Tassajara. We're welcoming a large group of participants and are building a team whose presence helps families of all kinds feel a sense of belonging. "Family" includes people caring for children or elders, chosen family, self-partnered people, aunts and uncles, caregivers, foster parents, and more.

Travel to Tassajara, overnight accommodations, and all meals are included.



City Center

Doan Ryo

Contact Michael at ccino@sfzc.org

The Doan Ryo is a collection of people who work closely with the Ino to take care of the meditation hall and help with service. They play the timing instruments, clean the altar, assist the priests, and lead the chanting. Dates and times depend on availability. All are welcome, especially people new to practice. No experience necessary!

Kitchen

Monday–Friday, 9:30 am and/or 4:00 pm

Contact: cctenzo@sfzc.org

We need help in the kitchen! Join the kitchen crew for meal prep and dish washing. Volunteers are welcome to drop in or reach out by email.

Gardening

Saturday, April 4: Buddha's Birthday Ceremony takes place at 11:30 am; volunteers are needed to help with gardening after lunch from 1:00–3:00 pm.

Saturday April 18: Gardening volunteers needed from 11:30 am–3:00 pm. Do you have a green thumb? Come garden at City Center and stay for lunch with the community!

For more information, please reach out. Contact: ccgarden@sfzc.org



Saturday Lunch

Saturdays, April 4–25 at 9:00 am

Contact: bryan.clark@sfzc.org

Assist temple staff with lunch prep for the sangha after the Saturday program.

Green Gulch Farm

Kitchen

Wednesday–Sunday, 9:15 am–12:30 pm and 4:00–6:00 pm

Contact: ggftenzo@sfzc.org

Help out in the Green Gulch kitchen! For more info, please reach out.

Farm and Garden

The farm will begin accepting volunteers on April 15. Our regular volunteer days are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:45 am–12:30 pm (after which volunteers are warmly invited to stay for lunch) and Sunday afternoons from 1:30–4:30 pm. Though it's helpful to give us a heads up, we don't need much notice. You can email us with questions or to let us know you're coming.

Questions? Contact farm@sfzc.org



Outreach Opportunities

Prison Pen Pal

Contact: sheilaSFZC@gmail.com

Would you like to connect with someone who is incarcerated? The Prison Correspondence Team is seeking volunteers with a meditation practice who would like to be pen pals with a person who is in prison. All letters are exchanged anonymously to ensure safety, and your words can offer connection, support, and a sense of community.

For deeper and more intensive service experiences, you are welcome to apply to our residential Apprenticeship Programs such as:

- [City Center Kitchen Apprenticeship](#)
- [Green Gulch Farm Kitchen Apprenticeship](#)
- [Green Gulch Farm & Land Steward Apprenticeship](#)
- [City Center Temple Care Crew](#)

Or apply to volunteer at a [Tassajara Work Period](#), held in April and September, for specialists in carpentry, plumbing, electrical, gardening, painting, and general maintenance.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering!

Last update: April 2026