



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

Saturday Sangha

Dates: Saturdays

City Center

Tim Wicks, cctanto@sfzc.org to participate.

Saturday Sangha is for anyone who joins the zazen schedule during the weekdays and/or on Saturday. Within the container of traditional forms, members of this group participate in doanryo training, temple care and kitchen practice, and study. During the week, participation includes zazen with the invitation to join the doanryo.

On Saturdays, the group bows together in the courtyard at 8:50 am and the schedule typically ends at 12:30 pm (including zazen, a Dharma talk, tea and cookies, and study with a teacher).



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 those 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 ,May 16: Gardening volunteers needed from 11:30 am–3:00 pm.

Saturday May 30: Gardening volunteers needed from 11:30 am–3:00 pm.

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



Saturday Lunch

Saturdays, May 9, 16, and 23 at 9:00 am

Contact: bryan.clark@sfzc.org

Assist temple staff with lunch prep 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

Contact: farm@sfzc.org

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.



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: May 2026