



Get Involved!



VOLUNTEERING AT SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY

Why volunteer?

- Many events and activities our kids benefit from and enjoy at Sycamore Valley would not be possible without the help of our parent volunteers.
- Your kids love seeing you in their classroom and at school.

Volunteering is good for your kids and you.

- It shows your kids you care about their education and consider school a worthwhile cause.
- Children of involved parents are more likely to earn better grades, attend school more regularly and be more positive in their attitude toward school.
- Volunteering gives you a firsthand understanding of your child's daily activities and the trends and fads of school life that can help you communicate with your kids.
- You get to know the teachers better, gain insight into the realities of the classroom, what happens in it and how to reinforce those lessons at home.
- Volunteering connects you to other Sycamore parents. Whether you are new to the school or just looking to meet new people, volunteering is a great way to make new friends.

Everyone has something to offer.

- You don't have to be Martha Stewart to volunteer. It's not about decorating the perfect cupcake or door poster. You don't have to be an expert you just have to have a willingness to give your time and energy.
- Not everyone is suited for the same type of involvement and that's OK. You may have to "try on" a few activities before you find something that feels right.
- Your schedule may not lend itself to volunteering at school. If you can't be there during school hours there's lots of behind-the-scenes work that can be done at home.

Pace yourself.

- It's actually OK to say, "no." Volunteering is not a competitive sport. Every hour you give is a gift to your child, our school and we hope yourself.
- We don't want parents to burn out because they over commit. We always need help, but we'd rather you pace yourself and stay engaged for the long haul.

We're parents, just like you.

- Volunteering at school may seem daunting. It's not. Before we became volunteers, we were and still are moms and dads just like you trying to figure it all out and support our kids and school as best we can. We hope you'll raise your hand and join us!



Become a Volunteer!



HOW TO BECOME A SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY VOLUNTEER

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at Sycamore Valley Elementary School.

For the safety of its students, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) utilizes Be A Mentor, an online Volunteer Management System, to ensure that all SRVUSD school volunteers have passed the appropriate safety clearances.

Volunteer Registration

- In order to volunteer in any capacity at Sycamore Valley Elementary you must first register through Be A Mentor.
- Please go to <http://www.beamentor.org/srvusd> to get started.
- Due to the volume of applications at the start of the school, please begin your registration process as soon as possible.
- This is a one-time registration. You will not need to reregister every year.

There are three levels of clearance you may apply for:

- **Level 1 – Classroom, on-campus volunteers, and non-driver chaperones for field trips**
 - Applicants will be approved through the Sex Offender Registry.
 - Clearance takes approximately 48 hours.
- **Level 2 – Field Trip Drivers**
 - The District will obtain a driving history for the last ten years from the DMV and will be notified any time there is a reportable violation or incident. Volunteers with 2 or more points will not be approved.
 - Clearance takes up to 10 days.
- **Level 3 – Overnight Chaperones**
 - Volunteers' fingerprints will be processed through the FBI and the Department of Justice.
 - Clearance can take 45 days.

To learn more about this system, please visit www.srvusd.net/volunteers. If you have questions regarding your application or need help please contact:

Be A Mentor
help@beamentor.org
510-342-7178

Heidi Barker
Sycamore Valley Elementary, Office Assistant
hbarker@srvusd.net

