LIVING ARROYOS

VOLUNTEER EVENT: WHAT TO EXPECT

What to Expect

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Living Arroyos! Our volunteer days focus on caring for local creeks and riparian corridors through hands-on trash cleanups and stewardship. This guide is designed to help you know what to expect at a Living Arroyos volunteer day!

Who is Living Arroyos:

Living Arroyos is a multi-agency partnership that operates throughout the Tri-Valley to help improve creek-side habitat through restoration and stewardship. Our team of staff and interns maintain native planting sites and host volunteer stewardship events.

Overview of the Day

Activity: The typical activity is a trash cleanup along creek or riparian areas. Occasionally, the activity involves invasive plant removal or native planting.
Typical Duration: ~3 hours (exact timing will be provided in the pre-event email)
Location: Meeting location and parking details will be emailed prior to the event
Who Can Participate: Individuals, families, school groups, and corporate or community groups

What We'll Be Doing

Volunteers will work in small groups to:

- Remove trash and debris from creek channels and surrounding riparian area
- Sort collected trash and recyclables when possible
- Learn about local watersheds and the importance of healthy creek systems

Living Arroyos will supply:

- Trash bags, buckets, and grabbers
- Disposable gloves
- Safety briefing and on-site guidance

What to Bring:

- Closed-toe shoes (boots recommended)
- Long pants
- Weather-appropriate clothing (layers, sun protection)
- Water and water bottle, sunscreen, hat, and sunglasses, snacks

Optional but helpful items:

- Work or gardening gloves
- Small backpack

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Safety Information

At the start of each volunteer day Living Arroyos staff will review key safety guidelines, including:

- Awareness of terrain
- What to do if you encounter sharp objects or hazardous materials
- Potential presence of homeless encampments
- Hazardous plants or animals in the area
- End time and meeting location

Please note:

- Volunteers should never handle sharp materials or other potentially hazardous items. Notify a staff member if you encounter these materials.
- Volunteers should notify a staff member if you encounter homeless encampments.
- Volunteers must stay within designated work area and follow staff instructions.

Note:
Volunteers will be notified ahead of time if event is to be cancelled in the case of rain or unsafe weather conditions.

Accessibility & Inclusivity

Living Arroyos strives to make volunteer opportunities welcoming and inclusive. If you or your group have accessibility needs or concerns, please contact us ahead of time so we can plan accordingly.

Youth & Group Volunteers

- All ages are welcome. Children under 18 must have a Living Arroyos waiver signed by a parent or guardian, and one chaperone per group of 5 minors must be present.
- Large groups (schools, companies, clubs) are encouraged to coordinate with Living Arroyos in advance.
- Community service hours can be verified upon request at the event.

After the Event

At the end of the cleanup, we'll gather volunteers to:

- Estimate collected trash
- Debrief and answer questions
- Take group photo

What You'll Gain

By volunteering with Living Arroyos, you will:

- Make a tangible impact on local creek health
- Learn about watershed stewardship
- Connect with your community

Questions? Please reach out to us at:
Email: info@livingarroyos.org
Website: livingarroyos.org
Thank you for helping care for our creeks! We look forward to volunteering with you!

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