



Volunteer in Parks

Spring/Summer 2026 VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

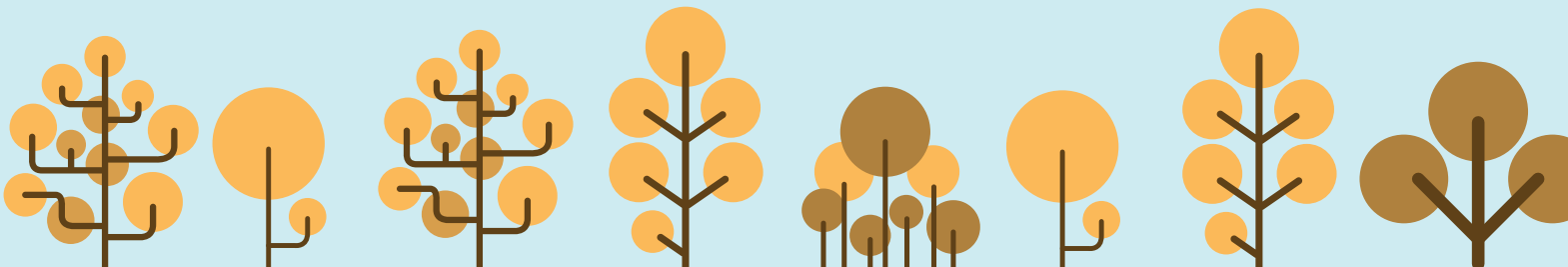
Volunteer Appreciation

Temporary Volunteer Contact

Welcome New Volunteers!

Volunteer Spotlight

Upcoming Opportunities



SPRING/SUMMER 2026

Volunteer Appreciation

Spring Appreciation: Gift Card Surprise! A gift card to a local business will be sent to your email.

Summer Appreciation: Lunch outing to Acre on Friday, August 7th at 11:30am! Please RSVP by Monday, August 3rd.

Your Go-To Volunteer Contact (For Now!)

Sara Custer: scuster@auburnal.gov

While Gabby is on maternity leave, Sara Custer, the Cultural Arts Administrator, will be the main point of contact for volunteers!

Welcome to Our Newest Volunteers!

- Mike Stover



Recruit a Friend

Do you know someone who would make a great volunteer? For every person you recruit to the REC VIP Program you will receive one entry into a drawing for a gift card.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Albert & Gavin Mendiola

Thank you to Albert & Gavin for being REC VIP Volunteers!

How long have you been a resident in Auburn?

I have called Auburn home in my heart for many years, but my family and I have physically lived in Auburn for the past 3 years. My wife of 20 years, Morgan, is an elementary teacher at St. Michael Catholic School here in Auburn. My oldest son, Caleb, is in his first year of undergraduate studies at Auburn University with a Pre Med focus, and my youngest son, Gavin, is an 8th grade student at Auburn Junior High School.

What is your favorite thing about volunteering?

My favorite thing about volunteering is the opportunity to serve and invest in a community that my family and I really do love. I want my story to reflect an Auburn man, one who cares deeply about his community, lifts others up, and actively helps strengthen the Auburn Family.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

A fun fact about me is that I love saltwater fishing. I enjoy the aggressive fight of saltwater fish, but what I value most is the time it gives me to connect with my sons. It allows us to build memories together and strengthen our bond as a family.



What is one of your favorite places to go to in Auburn?

One of my favorite places to go in Auburn is downtown on gamedays. I love the energy and excitement that can be felt throughout the city when the Auburn Family comes together. Seeing families, students, and alumni dressed in blue and orange creates a strong sense of unity and pride.

The traditions and shared celebrations make those days special and remind me how fortunate I am to call Auburn home.

Where do you enjoy volunteering the most?

I most enjoy volunteering at events where Aubie the Tiger, our beloved mascot, is present. Watching the joy on people's faces and seeing them light up when Aubie arrives is special. If Aubie is at an event, you know it is going to be something memorable for everyone involved.

SPRING OPPORTUNITIES

March

Breakfast with the Bunny

Saturday, March 21
6am-1pm
Lake Wilmore Park
Recreation Center
Wear RecVIP Shirt
Gabby Filgo
gfilgo@auburnal.gov

Bark in the Park

Saturday March 28
6am-2pm
Multiple Shifts Available
Kiesel Park
Wear RecVIP Shirt
Trevor Culligan
tculligan@auburnal.gov

April

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday April 4
6:30am-1pm
Duck Samford Park
Wear RecVIP Shirt
Maura Ellison
mtoohey@auburnal.gov

Youth Splash and Dash

Saturday, April 18
6:30am-9:30am
Wear RecVIP shirt
Maura Ellison
mtoohey@auburnal.gov

Auburn CityFest

Saturday April 25
7am-6pm
Multiple Shifts Available
Kiesel Park
Wear CityFest Volunteer
Shirt
Sara Custer
scuster@auburnal.gov

May

Fishing Rodeo

Saturday May 9
6am-12pm
Multiple Shifts Available
Auburn Technology Park South
Wear RecVIP Shirt
Trevor Culligan
tculligan@auburnal.gov

Spring Live & Local Music Series

Thursdays, 5/7-5/28
6-7:30pm
Multiple Shifts Available
Kiesel Park
Wear RecVIP Shirt
Jarrett Jones
jyjones@auburnal.gov

Contact Sara Custer at scuster@auburnal.gov to see if additional volunteer opportunities have been added!

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

City Market

Trevor Culligan
tculligan@auburnal.gov

Saturdays, 5/23-8/29
(excluding 7/4)

6:45am-11:30am (can be broken down into smaller shifts)
Wear RecVIP Shirt

Summer Art Camps

Arts for Young Children

6/16-6/18, 9am-11am

7/21-7/23, 9am-11am

Visual Arts Workshops for Children

6/22-6/26, 9am-Noon

7/6-7/10, 9am-Noon

7/13-7/17, 9am-Noon

Wear RecVIP Shirt

Sara Custer

scuster@auburnal.gov OR

Emillie Dombrowski

edombrowski@auburnal.gov

June

SummerNight Downtown Art Walk

Friday, June 5

4-10pm

Multiple Shifts

Downtown Auburn

Wear SummerNight

T-Shirt (will be provided)

Sara Custer
scuster@auburnal.gov

July

July 4th Celebration

Saturday, July 4

4-10pm

Duck Samford Park

Wear Rec VIP shirt

Jarrett Jones

jjones@auburnal.gov

August

Big Summer Sendoff

Saturday, August 8

11am - 5pm

Lake Wilmore Park

Recreation Center

Wear Rec VIP shirt

Sarah Cook

scook@auburnal.gov

Contact Sara Custer at
scuster@auburnal.gov
to see if additional volunteer
opportunities have been
added!

