



CHCP Museum Youth Leadership Project

Student Docent Program

Mission:

Promote, Educate, and Preserve Chinese and Chinese American history and culture in Santa Clara County for Students through the REACH (Remembering and Enriching Asian Cultural History) initiative while serving as Student Docents at the Chinese American Historical Museum (CAHM) located in the replica Ng Shing Gung Building.

Purpose:

1. Develop an interest in the history of Santa Clara Valley among the area's high school/college students, and to allow them to see how various ethnic minority groups have played a vital role in the development of the Valley.
2. Focus the interest in the history of the early Chinese immigrants to Santa Clara Valley, and how their contributions affected the early immigrants, but also the society in general.
3. Give the high school/college students of Santa Clara Valley a greater understanding and familiarity with Chinese-American cultural practices, traditions, and history.
4. After training (either from formal classes or equivalent informal instruction), allow the high school/college students to assist at the Chinese American Historical Museum (CAHM), at the replica Ng Shing Gung building, at History San Jose (HSJ). The students would assist at specific venues of the Museum, under the leadership of the Museum Docents.

Volunteers Include:

Student Volunteers or Parent Team Volunteers (at least one parent participates with his/her son or daughter)

*Note: Adult parent docents need background checks by HSJ before qualifying to volunteer.

Student Qualifications:

1. High school/college student in good standing.
2. Must have shown personal initiative in learning about their culture and preserving its history.
3. Must be recommended by a principal, teacher or counselor or CHCP Board member as being responsible and trustworthy.

4. Must have a desire to be creative in bringing innovative ideas to enhance the museum's exhibits and collections.
5. Must be mature and able to work with visitors of all ages.
6. Bilingual skills desired but not necessary.

Opportunities:

1. Fulfill school service or community service requirements in a unique environment.
2. For Parent Team Volunteers, a chance for parents to work alongside their children. This also helps provide the student's transportation needs.
3. Meet other young people who have similar interests.
4. Help at weekend Museum events for families.
5. Assist in leading tours through the Museum and be a Museum gallery guide.
6. Learn and try new things.
7. Assist with art and craft activities during special programs.
8. Design and implement special activities that would enhance the Museum experience especially for peer groups and younger students.
9. Provide a significant role model to children and young adults.

Requirements:

1. Willingness to work a flexible schedule, especially on weekends. This would mean working one (1) weekend day (either **Saturday for a HSJ special event** or **any regularly scheduled Sunday at CAHM** from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) for 4-6 months during the school year.
2. Enthusiasm for the Museum and its mission of inspiring wonder, discovery, and responsibility for our culture and the Museum's displays. This includes learning enough about the Museum to be able to assist in giving tours and answer commonly asked questions by visitors.
3. Desire to develop new skills and gain new knowledge.
4. Desire and commitment to work as part of a team.
5. Be willing to be interviewed and approved by CHCP's representative(s) of the Board of Directors.
6. Fill out the volunteer application and complete all necessary paperwork.
 - a. Volunteer commitment (to be provided)
 - b. Parent / Guardian Permission
 - c. Student Volunteer Behavior Agreement (to be provided)
 - d. Letter of recommendation from Principal, teacher, counselor, or adult leader of a program (church, club, recognized organization, etc.)
 - e. Agree to follow Student Volunteer Guidelines (To be provided)

For Further Information:

Contact CHCP Director Brenda Wong (brenda.wong@chcp.org).

History Park at Kelley Park is located at 635 Phelan Ave./Senter Road in San Jose.

VTA Bus line 73 stops half a block from the History Park entrance.