



Hospice Volunteer Training—Fall 2026

About Volunteering with Hospice

The service of a Volunteer is at the heart of what Hospice offers to patients, and families who are caring for a loved one who is on our service. We also offer grief support to the community.

Volunteer Visitors (VV's) are understanding listeners, the ones who extend a hand to hold, provide companionship and presence at the bedside that comforts patients, and often makes it possible for a caregiver to have a few hours of respite. VV's can also serve as Pet Companion and Massage Therapy VV's.

Grief Support Volunteers (GSV's) provide 1:1 support (experienced Volunteers only) and/or co-facilitate grief support groups for those who have already experienced a loss.

Hospice of Santa Cruz County (HSCC) needs specialized volunteers who are:

- Certified massage therapists
- Bi-lingual in English & Spanish and/or bi-cultural
- Pet companion visitors
- Veterans wanting to serve other veterans

The **15** hour hybrid training(18 hours for GSV's), includes 3 in-person and several zoom sessions(video on/your presence required), and is interactive and experiential. HSCC asks that candidates be able to make a volunteering commitment of 3-4 hours per week for at least one year and complete the mandatory annual education requirement that we provide. All training is provided free of charge by HSCC. Volunteers are currently required to have a TB test and background checks, all of which HSCC pays for.

Some topics covered in the training include the following:

- Philosophy of Hospice
- Spiritual dimensions of death and dying
- Grief processes and bereavement experiences
- Mindful awareness practice as a support to service
- Basics of care and safety
- Communication
- Self-care and personal/professional boundaries

Hospice of Santa Cruz County honors the choices of individuals and families by providing exemplary end-of-life care and grief support to our community.

Training Schedule-

Hybrid: In person (Scotts Valley) & by zoom. In person not recorded.

ALL sessions required except:

***= 10/21 is an additional training for GSV's. Optional for VV's.**

Wednesday, October 7 5:45–9 PM

Wednesday, October 14 6–9 PM zoom

*Wednesday, October 21 6–9 PM zoom

Wednesday, October 28 6–9 PM

Wednesday, November 4 6–9 PM zoom

Wednesday, November 11 6–9 PM

Application & Interview process.

Application due September 23.

For those who have experienced significant personal loss, it is recommended to wait at least one year before applying.

For More Information and to apply:

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