



## Frequently Asked Questions RSVP The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

- **What is RSVP?** The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, a program of **Senior Volunteer Services**, matches the interests of persons age 55 and older with rewarding part time volunteer opportunities for community service at hospitals and local nonprofit organizations or government agencies. San Luis Obispo County RSVP volunteers perform high impact service with County/City Police, Senior Centers, Harvest Bag/Food Banks, Museums/Parks, Libraries, Senior Nutrition Program, Amtrak/Airport, Caring Callers, and health care facilities.
- **Who can enroll with RSVP?** Person's age 55 and older who are interested in contributing their time and skills to the citizens of their community, can be an RSVP volunteer. There are no requirements for education, income or experience. RSVP staff assists volunteers to find fulfilling volunteer assignments, match interests and abilities to local needs, or learn new skills.
- **When did RSVP begin?** RSVP is a federally funded nonprofit program, which began in San Luis Obispo County in 1972 and receives additional matching funds from the City and County of San Luis Obispo, and other local communities.
- **What does it cost?** There are no enrollment fees, or dues, to become an RSVP volunteer.
- **How much time does RSVP take?** Volunteer schedules and assignments can be flexible to meet the needs of the volunteer and the agency. There are no mandatory meetings of RSVP itself.
- **What are the insurance benefits?** Enrolled Volunteers who report their hours while on RSVP assignments are protected with
  - \$1 million personal liability
  - \$25K supplemental personal accident, and
  - \$500K excess auto liability and property damage.
- **Is there any mileage reimbursement?** Volunteers in need may request some reimbursement for transportation expenses related to an RSVP assignment. Reimbursement is capped at \$15 per month, paid quarterly.
- **Any other benefits?** All active, enrolled volunteers are recognized for their volunteer service at a special event held at least once each year. Tours are organized at reduced rates for those who want to participate. A pharmacy prescription discount card is issued. The most important benefit of all is the difference RSVP volunteers makes in the community by contributing their knowledge and skills.
- **Why are hours reported?** RSVP volunteers must maintain enrollment to validate the insurance benefits. The hours are also important to let Congress and state legislators know the value and type of contributions from San Luis Obispo County seniors.

San Luis Obispo County [-cheryl@srvolunteer.org](mailto:cheryl@srvolunteer.org)  
660 Pismo Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
PHONE (805) 544-8740 – FAX (805) 544-9146

Northern Santa Barbara County – [rsvpsm@srvolunteer.org](mailto:rsvpsm@srvolunteer.org)  
528 South Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93454  
PHONE (805) 922-9931 – FAX (805) 310-5099