



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAILWAY MUSEUM

2201 South "A" St., Perris, CA 92570-9318.....PO Box 548, Perris, CA 92572-0548

Phone: (951) 943-3020.....Fax: (951) 943-2676

[www.socalrailway.org](http://www.socalrailway.org).....[info@socalrailway.org](mailto:info@socalrailway.org)

## WELCOME TO VOLUNTEERING (Updated 7.14.2021)

Hello!

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Southern California Railway Museum (SCRM) Volunteer! We are excited to have you!

SCRM is the largest railroad museum in the west, including over 200 rolling stock artifacts! SCRM also has over 1,500 active members and around 200 regular volunteers. These volunteers are the backbone of the Museum. Volunteers help the Museum achieve its mission of preserving and restoring historical rail transportation artifacts, as well as educating the public on the importance of railroad history.

This letter is intended to introduce you to the best way to get involved with one of the Museum's divisions - whether you are interested in restoration, operations, archives, visitor experience, or a little of each, there is something for you at SCRM.

### Goals of the Museum

First and foremost, our mission is to preserve the heritage of the railroads and educate the public on the impact they had on the Western United States, and Southern California in particular.

Secondly, and just as importantly, safety. As an operating railroad one of our primary goals in all of our activities is safety. Each volunteer is expected to learn, understand, and enforce the Museum's safety policies. This allows the Museum to continue operating, maintain its good safety record, and ultimately preserve

equipment and artifacts.

In addition to the general safety policies of the Museum each division will contain its own segment of rules and regulations to follow. These will be provided to each volunteer as they complete the necessary training for each division.

## **SCRM Divisions**

We have various "divisions" that make up the different functions of the Museum, and within each of these there are jobs to be done by people of all different levels of skills and physical capabilities. And, what you don't know, we will teach you! The more you are able to commit to a division the more you will be able to learn and contribute.

One very important thing to know: **You are not restricted to one division.** In fact, we encourage you to become active in more than one. For example, many of our Operators are active in Maintenance, Plant & Facilities, Visitor Experience, and Collections. We find that our volunteers report a much more rewarding experience when their time volunteering is well rounded and includes rotations amongst the various divisions. There is very little more satisfying than operating a train or trolley that you helped to restore and maintain! And, what could beat sharing that experience with guests at our events?!

Below we will introduce each division and provide some starting points to begin volunteering.

### **Operations - Train and Trolley**

The volunteers in this division operate the trains and trolleys for our regular operating weekends, special events, and charters.

Subdivisions include electric, diesel, and steam.

This volunteer path begins with **Introduction to Railway Operations and Museum History**. Here you will learn the interesting history of our collection and the history of the museum, now over 50 years old. As a public facing volunteer each engineer/conductor/motorman/ is acts as a type museum docent. You will not be expected to know everything about the museum or the history of every rail car; but you will be given a good foundation from which to grow your knowledge, and

each time you volunteer you will learn what types of questions visitors ask most frequently, and who to refer a visitor to if you do not know the answer. Education is paramount to our mission and a role we expect every volunteer to facilitate in some capacity.

This introduction will also cover the basic rules and policies of the Museum as they pertain to being an operator.

This introduction is typically led by **Gary Starre (Asst. Division Manager, Operations)**, and classes are scheduled on Saturdays by demand. **Contact Gary Starre to see the next scheduled introduction <[gastarre@gmail.com](mailto:gastarre@gmail.com)>.**

## **Facility and Maintenance**

This division encompasses everything on our site from track, wire, signals, buildings, grounds, landscaping, custodial, to construction and maintenance.

With a 96-acre facility volunteers in this division are always needed! SCRM has some big projects planned in the next few years that will require people who have, or want to learn, skills in taking care of and improving the Museum campus.

If you are interested in volunteering with this division please contact the appropriate staff or volunteer listed on the *Meet the Museum: Division and Area Contacts* guide.

## **Events and Visitor Experience**

Visitor experience encompasses overall Museum accessibility, interpretation, interaction, and of course events.

This division works closely with Operations to give the best possible experience to our guests - whether those guests are visiting during one of our regular operating weekends, for a run one or charter, or for one of our signature events.

Events play a large role in funding the Museum's regular operations, restoration, and maintenance projects - and volunteers are essential to facilitating these events and creating a positive experience for visitors. With events happening almost monthly there are plenty of opportunities to get involved!

Outside of our event schedule the Museum offers docent led tours of our collections and restoration barns to the general public and well as school groups. Volunteers

who assist in this area are invaluable in achieving the educational component of our mission.

If you are interested in volunteering with this division please contact the appropriate staff or volunteer listed on the *Meet the Museum: Division and Area Contacts* guide.

## **Rail Vehicle Restoration and Maintenance**

Restoration and maintenance work is organized by subdivision and project; each led by an experienced project manager (i.e. the Lead or Division Manager). All projects are at the discretion of the Lead/Manager and based on funding. Managers and Leads prioritize restoration projects to best meet the needs of the Museum.

Our collections include items from the Pacific Electric “Red Cars”, the Los Angeles Railway “Yellow Cars”, San Diego Electric Railway, Southern Pacific, Union Pacific and the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe.

As volunteers you will have the opportunity to access collection items not normally available to the public, and it is paramount that you respect the preservation and restoration process laid out by our Division Managers and Lead Volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering with this division please contact the appropriate staff or volunteer listed on the *Meet the Museum: Division and Area Contacts* guide.

## **Miscellaneous**

There is so much more that goes into operating a Museum, and we have volunteer opportunities in just about every facet!

Our volunteers help support the Museum through the following:

- Collection Support
- Archives
- Fred Harvey Museum
- Middleton Collection
- Information Technology
- Photography/Videography
- Maintaining our YouTube

As volunteers you will have the opportunity to access collection items and archival

documents not normally available to the public, and it is paramount that you respect the preservation and restoration process laid out by our Division Managers and Lead Volunteers.

If you have skills or interest in any of these areas please contact the appropriate staff or volunteer listed on the *Meet the Museum: Division and Area Contacts* guide.

## **In Conclusion**

The hours can be long, the pay is non-existent, but the rewards are plentiful. So, if you are ready to get started you can say “I’ve been working on the railroad”,  
WELCOME ABOARD.

The individuals named on the *Meet the Museum: Division and Area Contacts* guide have been designated as Active Managers and Leads of specific divisions/subdivisions. The majority of those designated are volunteers, so if you do not receive a response after contacting them please let us know by contacting our Manager of Visitor Experience, Sarah Harty at [sarah@socalrailway.org](mailto:sarah@socalrailway.org) or 951.805.7546. She will help facilitate communication and help get you started with volunteering.

Thank you for your time and interest in volunteering - we look forward to working with you!

Sarah Harty

Division Manager, Visitor Experience

[sarah@socalrailway.org](mailto:sarah@socalrailway.org)

951 805 7546

Gary Starre

Asst. Div. Manager, Operations

[gastarre@gmail.com](mailto:gastarre@gmail.com)

818 489 2700