



Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

November 7, 2016

Annual Volunteer Awards

On Saturday November 5, 2016, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) held its annual volunteer luncheon to celebrate the amazing people that generously donate their time to helping preserve and protect the Puente Hills Preserve. Volunteers are incredibly important to the work the Habitat Authority does. Their contributions double the amount of people that are reached each year through educational programs. On average 3,000 people are reached each year through the outdoor educational programs of Hills Alive, Jr. Ranger and public hikes. Also, volunteer Trail Watchers help the rangers keep the trails safe and clean. Now more than ever, Trail Watch volunteers are needed given that the visitation to the Preserve is estimated to be about 1 million people a year, almost a ten times increase since 2005. Currently there are over 70 volunteers.

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, *“Volunteers are such an integral part of the Habitat Authority. They inspire me!”*

Docent Volunteer of the Year 2016

Jenna Lavin is a La Habra resident and became a docent September, 2014. Jenna is athletic and passionate about the environment. She loves teaching, working with children and is passionate about ‘giving back’. Her outgoing personality and enthusiasm shine in all she does. This year Jenna has been a big help in leading both our Dog Pack hikes and 10,000 Steps.

Trail Watch Volunteer of the Year 2016

Josie Gonzales lives in Rowland Heights and has been volunteering for the Preserve since early 2014. Prior to that, she was already hiking our trails, and saw Trail Watch as an “added bonus”. Not only is Josie active in trail watching this year, but she has assisted the rangers with projects and is an active Docent who has led numerous programs including 10,000 Steps and special events. The satisfaction of clean trails is her reward. Josie has extensive volunteer experience, and loves to combine her outdoor activities with quality dog time.

Overall Volunteer of the Year 2016

Dr. Pam Hill is a Whittier resident and geology teacher. She has been a Docent and ‘unofficial’ Trail Watch volunteer since September, 2015. She has accumulated over 100 volunteer hours this year. Pam is a people person and loves sharing her interests and knowledge with others. She is an avid outdoors enthusiast, who loves camping, hiking, and science. She is active with the Sierra Club and in Scouting. And, wow, what a wealth of knowledge! Pam holds a PhD in Geochemistry, a MS in geology and a MS in Physics, as well as a BA in Math!



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The Habitat Authority is currently accepting applications to become a Trail Watch volunteer. Training starts in January 2017. Visit the website for more information
<http://www.habitatauthority.org/ways-to-help/>

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) is a local government joint powers authority which manages 3,870 acres of hillsides in Whittier, Hacienda Heights and La Habra Heights, called the Puente Hills Preserve. The Habitat Authority is dedicated to the acquisition, restoration, and management of open space in the Puente Hills for preservation of the land in perpetuity, with the primary purpose to protect the biological diversity. Additionally, the agency will endeavor to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation.

For more information about the Habitat Authority visit www.habitatauthority.org.

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