

VOLUNTEER

Mission San Luis



Help us bring *La Florida* to life!

Contribute your passion, knowledge and skills to make the stories and spirit of Florida's 17th-century people come alive! Mission San Luis is a very special place where Apalachee Indians and Spaniards lived together for almost fifty years. It is the only reconstructed Spanish mission in the Southeast. You can help us provide one-of-a-kind experiences for visitors time traveling to Spanish Florida's western capital.

Various volunteer opportunities are available for individuals and groups. Mission San Luis provides training for all its volunteers. All you need to bring is your enthusiasm and interest. There are many opportunities to learn new skills and enhance old ones. We bring in noted experts in history, archaeology, living history, crafts and more for the continuing education of our staff and volunteers.



*Mission San Luis is
an exciting and
inspiring community
to volunteer in....
My favorite activity
is working and
training in the
blacksmith forge.*

~ Keelan Bush Rester





Costumed Interpretation

As a living history museum, the Mission San Luis site relies on volunteers and staff in period costume to interpret and reenact life in 1703. These volunteers speak to visitors about customs and practices. Child and adult living history volunteers take on the role of specific Spanish and Apalachee people within the village of San Luis. Characters include blacksmith apprentice, soldier, carpenter, gardener, tanner, Apalachee villager, Spanish villager, cook, and many others.

Museum Docents

Volunteer docents provide interactive learning experiences for groups visiting the museum. Docents serve as guides for scheduled tour groups, leading our guests through the living history of Mission San Luis. By creating a bridge from present to past, our docents help visitors gain insight and understanding of the vibrant cultures and stories of the site. Tours range from 1—2 hours and address all age groups from grade schoolers to senior citizens.

Education/Outreach

Volunteers in period dress represent Mission San Luis at various gatherings, schools, and festivals throughout the Florida panhandle region. They promote awareness of the Mission and educate using historical information, replica artifacts, and character stories.

Gardens & Site Maintenance

Volunteers are always needed to help plant, cultivate, weed, and harvest the historical gardens and field crops on site while keeping the site clean and litter-free. Assist us in clearing hiking trails, building fences, collecting firewood, and many other tasks that keep the living history program running and the site beautiful.

Primitive Weapons (Archery & Atlatl)

Enjoy meeting new people by helping us instruct guests of all ages in archery and atlatl (primitive spear throwing). Our primitive weapons activities have become very popular and are a great opportunity to educate our visitors about the methods early Apalachee and other Indians used to hunt for food. Volunteers assist in the operation of the archery and atlatl ranges on weekends, during special events, and for educational tours.

Historic Militia

Be a part of the action as our volunteer militia performs regular blackpowder cannon and musket firing demonstrations! Members of the militia also play military music, cook period foods, and interpret surgical procedures. Mission San Luis will provide the required blackpowder and range safety training.



Music

Are you a vocalist? Can you play a recorder? Mandolin? Guitar? Lute? You can become one of our roaming musicians in the living history village—especially on special event days—helping to augment the presentation of daily life at Mission San Luis. You bring the instrument and the talent, we'll provide the costume.

Special Events

Many roles are available for volunteers at our special events throughout the year. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator for information about assisting with upcoming events.

Hospitality

Hospitality volunteers help keep the energy flowing during our special events. Help us make sure coffee, water, other beverages, and snacks are available. Also organize and/or make cookies, brownies and other treats for our bake sales.

Colonial Crafts

Colonial Crafts is a make-and-take activity for children and families that usually takes place at our special events. Volunteers are needed to help our guests create these special craft items.

Textile Arts

If you are handy with embroidery, knitting, weaving, lacemaking, and more, we have historic patterns for you to follow to make everything from clothing for our costumed interpreters to altar cloths for the church. You can create these items while at home in your spare time or "dressed-out" as a villager.

Media & Communications

Are you a gifted videographer or photographer? Do you have experience in Photoshop, film editing, or social media? We can use your talents!

Administrative & Clerical

For those who prefer a "behind-the-scenes" type of volunteering, there are always plenty of important tasks—copying, filing, organizing, helping with mailings, village prop acquisition, setting up for meetings, and events and breaking down/cleaning up afterwards. The possibilities are endless.

Visitor Services

Assist with the operation of *El Mercado* museum shop and admission sales at the museum. The Visitor Services Assistant will also help with booking school groups and scheduling visits.

Service Groups

There are many opportunities for groups of any size to help here at Mission San Luis. Projects may be tailored to fit your group's needs. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator to discuss the possibilities and schedule.



*Don't see your area of
expertise listed?
Contact us to see
if we could use your
special skills!*

Annual Special Events at Mission San Luis*

Share the Love

Sunday before Valentine's Day

17th-Century Military Muster

Second Saturday of March

Blessing of Animals

First Saturday of October

Giving Thanks

Near Thanksgiving (Sunday before for 2016)

Winter Solstice Celebration

In December before Winter Solstice
(December 17-18, 2016)

** Please confirm event dates by contacting Mission San Luis*

Mission San Luis is a participating organization for the Presidential Volunteer Service Award program, recognizing the outstanding efforts from community volunteers of all ages.

Mission San Luis is a Preserve America Presidential Award recipient and one of the first National Historic Landmarks.

Contact Information:

Volunteer Coordinator
info@missionsanluis.org
850.245.6406

For more information, please visit
missionsanluis.org



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Support provided by
the Friends of Mission San Luis, Inc.



FLORIDA'S APALACHEE-SPANISH
LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM

2100 West Tennessee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32304
850.245.6406 | missionsanluis.org

Open Tuesday - Sunday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed Mondays. Closed New Year's Day, Easter,
July 4, Thanksgiving, December 24 & 25.

Mission San Luis
2100 West Tennessee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32304