

# 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.

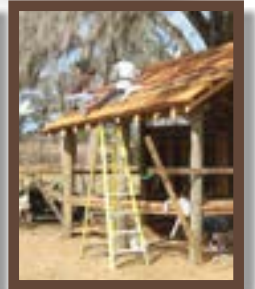


*Mission San Luis is an exciting and inspiring community to volunteer in....*

*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 black powder 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 black powder and range safety training.

## Music

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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

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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

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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

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*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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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!*

## MISSION SAN LUIS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Annual Special Events at Mission San Luis\*

**Spanish Colonial Adventure Day**  
Second Saturday of March

**Mother's and Father's Day Events**  
May and June

**Blessing of Animals**  
First Saturday of October

**Winter Solstice Celebration**  
Weekend before Winter Solstice

\* 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](http://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](http://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