

California's Volunteer of the Year

An outstanding Californian whose volunteer service is exemplary and inspirational

Tom Zimmerman, Co-Founder Extreme Science Program



Tom has been volunteering in the technology and science arena in Bay Area schools for more than seven years. He has also co-founded the Extreme Science Program for low-income Latino high school students, which creates extreme science activities to show how exciting science can be. The students volunteer their time and stay after school to participate in his program. Tom is expanding his efforts to the college level, mentoring minority students who are developing innovative solar collectors and electric cars. While his work focuses on public schools, he has also bartered his services with Youth Radio – a nonprofit multimedia organization serving young people of color – teaching an electronic drum workshop so his Latino students could learn video editing. A passionate inventor and researcher at the IBM Almaden Research Center, he takes great satisfaction in seeing students grow in their confidence, abilities and skills.

California's Business Volunteer Program of the Year

A California business with an innovative, high-impact employee volunteer program

Pacific Gas and Electric Company



**Pacific Gas and
Electric Company**

PG&E has proudly supported the California State Park Foundation's Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup program. Over the past eight years, more than 5,000 of PG&E's dedicated employee volunteers have been involved in a variety of activities, including the building of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) pathways; installation of interpretive signs; planting of trees and community gardens; the removal of tons of trash and recyclables; and other improvements such as painting over graffiti and installing irrigation systems. This work helped mitigate the significant maintenance backlog faced by California's parks. In partnership with a variety of nonprofits throughout California, PG&E has also been involved with more than 500 employee volunteer events this past year.

California's Nonprofit Leader of the Year

A California nonprofit leader who has shown an extraordinary ability to leverage volunteers in service to their organization

David Levinson, Founder and Director, Big Sunday



What began as a request from his rabbi to coordinate a 300-person volunteer day for his synagogue 10 years ago, has grown into an annual 50,000 volunteer two-day event across Southern California, serving more than 300 nonprofit organizations, engaging people across faith, ethnic, economic, cultural and other boundaries. David is the founder and director of what has grown to become Big Sunday weekend. David's motivation for Big Sunday was the idea that everyone has some way that they can help somebody else. His belief is that, "when people work together, we focus on what we share, rather than what keeps us apart." Big Sunday features projects for all talents and ages, and now includes holiday volunteer service opportunities, as well as a year-round calendar of volunteer events. While managing Big Sunday, David continues to work as a writer.

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