

VOLUNTEER INFO SHEET

The 2024 Bay Area Heat Mapping Campaign

[*sign up form here*](#)

OVERVIEW

The Palo Alto Student Climate Coalition (PASCC) is partnering with Acterra, CAPA Strategies, the City of Palo Alto, the City of East Palo Alto, the Mayor of Menlo Park, Belle Haven Action, and Youth Community Service to map the distribution of heat across the Bay Area.

On one of the hottest days of the summer, a Saturday in late August or early September, volunteers will help drive and navigate around the cities of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, and Menlo Park.

Using specially designed sensors mounted on car windows, these community volunteers will drive prescribed routes to record ambient temperatures, humidity, and GPS location data at three times of day in 1 hour shifts: morning (6:00am), afternoon (3:00pm), and evening (7:00pm).

Volunteers will all gather at a “Hub” or a central location (likely a local library or community center) where we will distribute the heat sensors and give everyone access to food and drink when they return from or are in between data collection shifts.

The campaign is partnering with CAPA Strategies, a company that facilitates heat mapping campaigns like this all over the world, alongside the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The data collected will be compiled and analyzed to help city officials better understand the underlying disparities in access to green and cool spaces.

Climate change exacerbates and increases the incidence of extreme heat events. According to NOAA, extreme heat consistently leads to the deadliest outcomes of all weather events annually. Understanding how heat impacts our communities is becoming increasingly necessary.

Once data is collected, Palo Alto Student Climate Coalition leaders and their community partners including Acterra, plan to work together to deploy targeted cooling solutions that can protect our most vulnerable populations. [Sign up here!](#)

DATE OF THE CAMPAIGN

We need a very specific set of weather conditions (ie, low cloud cover, no precipitation, and high temperatures) in order to record the data that will allow us to examine what our community looks like on a very hot day.

We are working with the National Weather Service to do precise weather forecasting to ensure we are collecting data on a suitable day. However, this means we are only able to completely confirm the day of data collection as the hotter part of the summer approaches (ie, closer to August). We will only be able to confirm the day of the campaign within about a week prior.

We have selected a range of 3 Saturdays the campaign will likely fall on based on historical weather data. We ask volunteers to remain available during these three Saturdays until we are able to provide you with more forecasting information as we narrow down the exact day of data collection. We really appreciate your flexibility and patience!

THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS

We will be hosting a Training (with a virtual Zoom option as well as both English and Spanish translations) to bring our volunteers up to speed on what the campaign day will look like, what roles will be, and how to use our heat sensors. The Training will be hosted on Thursday, July 18th at 6:30pm at the Rinconada Library Embarcadero Room.

Before we dive into specifics at the training, please know we will need volunteers with access to a car (all those with access to electric vehicles are encouraged to bring those!). We need one volunteer to drive, one volunteer to sit in the passenger seat and navigate, and another volunteer in the back to manage the sensor and take field notes.

If you are interested, you can also take on an organizational role as a volunteer to help with the distribution of sensors, organizing food and beverages, and helping with set up and clean up.

COMMUNITY SCIENCE

Participating in community science is a wonderful way to foster connections across our three cities, promote environmental stewardship, and collectively realize the growing need to come together to look for and build solutions as the impacts of the climate crisis mount.

We encourage you to bring your friends and family to participate in data collection.