

Volunteer Work

by

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I often reflect on what a great childhood I have had growing up in Laguna Beach, and part of me has wanted to go back and relive my younger years. That is probably why I always seem to gravitate towards working with kids when it comes to exploring volunteer opportunities. My first volunteer gig was working as a team leader's assistant at Vacation Bible School at South Shores Church in Dana Point. I was in middle school at the time and really enjoyed helping the younger kids participate in the fun activities and learn about the message of Christ. During the early part of high school, I worked at the Laguna Beach Public Library helping out with the children's summer reading program. My goal there was to inspire children to find a love for reading as I had. That reading a good story in a physical book, rather than on a device, can offer some very special moments in life, especially in the peace and quiet of a library. I have also been very involved in volunteering in various capacities for the Laguna Beach schools music programs. At 8th-Grade Parent Night, I talk to incoming freshman about the high school music program and hopefully get them excited about participating in music. I am first chair tenor saxophone in jazz ensemble and marching band; first chair cello in string ensemble; and I am Team Captain and vibraphone player in drumline. Needless to say, I have plenty to talk about when it comes to high school music. At the high school and Thurston music concerts, I act as a stage manager, helping to set up the stage and organize the younger musicians, so they are in the right spot when it is their turn to perform. The best part about volunteering with the school bands is mentoring younger musicians by offering my experience and knowledge I have learned over the years. Because I play a variety of instruments, I am able to offer a unique perspective and playing style to each musical group.