



## Gardner Street Volunteer Opportunities

A typical school year at Gardner Street includes a wide range of fundraising events and activities, hosted by Friends of Gardner (FOG). These important and fun-filled events are not possible without our vibrant, active and diverse volunteer community!

Provided below are descriptions of each event/activity along with applicable volunteer opportunities. We hope you find at least one item that matches your special talents and/or skills– something that speaks to your heart– something where you can jump in and lend a helping hand! Please fill out the enclosed form or contact [friendsofgardner@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgardner@gmail.com) if you're interested. We are excited to work with you!

**Halloween Carnival (Friday Oct 27, 2023)** – Each year, the Gardner outdoor playground is transformed into a festive fall-themed carnival! We already have two very experienced parent volunteers who bring the vision to life (based on a spooky new theme each year!) but they will need a team of parents to help with design and decoration support in the weeks leading up to the event. We will also need many volunteers to help with day-of tasks such as selling tickets, running games, face painting, handing out prizes, helping with food sales, etc. The sign-up sheet for those activities will be emailed to all interested volunteers a few weeks prior to the event. So . . . let us know now if you may be interested and we will put you on the list to be contacted!

**Candy Campaign (Nov 13 to Nov 30, 2023)** – Got a sweet tooth? Love to do sales and marketing? Each year we partner with See's Candies to sell. In turn, the candy vendor gives Gardner a kick-back percentage based on sales achieved. We need a lead volunteer to work directly with the candy companies, set-up the sales form/website and help get the word out to the Gardner community. We also need volunteers to support a table at the school where families can pick-up their orders once delivered to the school.

**Book Fair (Dec 4 to Dec 8, 2023)** – This week-long event is a student favorite! We already have several experienced parent volunteers but we need a few more interested people to join the team. All roles for this event require volunteers to be present at the school either for set-up/tear-down activities or to work the cash register and/or provide support on the sales floor as students and parents explore the wide range of fun books and treats!

**Winter Concert/Bake Sale (Dec 14, 2023)** – This event includes many opportunities to volunteer. For example, we need a team of talented people to tap into their decorating skills and help transform the auditorium into a winter wonderland. We also need people to coordinate, set-up and sell yummy items at the event's bake sale.

**Walk-a-Thon (Feb 23, 2024)** – This is our only student-led fundraiser and our 2nd BIGGEST earner of the entire school year! In addition to helping your own student set-up their donation webpage (and contact friends/family to sponsor them), we also need volunteers to provide support on the day of the event. Tasks include cutting up oranges and handing them out along with cups of water to all the excited and energized students. Volunteers also have fun cheering on the student walkers as they go around and around and AROUND the entire school yard while fun music blasts to keep everyone pumped!

**Talent Show (Mar 21, 2024)** – Our school has some talented students and this annual "Gardner's Got Talent" event allows them to shine! In order to make it happen, we need a team of volunteers to support the audition process, dress rehearsals and various day-of tasks needed to organize the performers behind the stage as well as greet the audience with programs as they arrive for an incredible show!

**Coin Drive (Apr 2 to Apr 12, 2024)** - We need someone to run the 2024 coin drive. It involves organizing the drive as well as collecting, sorting, counting and tracking coin donations. This volunteer job is an easy way to get involved!

**Arts Showcase/Bake Sale (April 17, 2024)** – Join the effort to help prep for this spectacular Spring event that beautifully showcases a wide range of artistic pieces created by the students throughout the entire school year. Tasks include mounting the art pieces, constructing a "display gallery" and supporting the bake sale set-up and sales process.

**Legendary BINGO (Spring 2024)** – This fundraiser is an adult-only event that is typically held at Hamburger Mary's in West Hollywood and it is a blast! We need volunteers to help find donation items that can be used for BINGO giveaways and/or for the silent auction component of the event.

**Glow Dance (May 17, 2024)** – Gardner Street school is transformed into a glow in the dark dance party and we are very excited to bring this event back after several years of cancellation due to the pandemic! Volunteers are needed to help with the set-up and decoration of the designated indoor space. We need YOU! We will also need a team of volunteers to handle ticket sales and to support the table that sells a ton of glow in the dark items to very excited students!

**Spring Concert/Bake Sale (Jun 5, 2023 tentative date)** – This event includes many opportunities to volunteer. We will need a team of talented people to tap into their decorating skills to beautify our auditorium with a fun Spring theme. We also need people to coordinate, set-up and sell yummy items at the concert's bake sale.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Culmination (Jun 10, 2024)** – We are looking for some volunteers to support the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers in the creation of an amazing event to properly celebrate the student accomplishments and give them a loving send-off from Gardner! Do you enjoy party planning? Do you have a connection to get party rentals? Are you skilled in decorating? Can you help support the refreshments table? If yes, you will be a great addition to this volunteer team!

**Corporate Sponsorships** – Are you a hustler who makes things happen? We need you to help us get businesses on board with supporting our school. This may include selling banners, event sponsorship or just general donations and placement on our webpage/social media. There are so many businesses within our school “community” including the businesses our families work for and/or lead on a daily basis . . . we just need some talented people to reach out and connect!

**Community Cash** – Every year we leave “easy money” on the table because we do not have a volunteer to lead this fundraising activity to the next level. We already have the framework in place. We now need someone to help the Gardner community (families, teachers, friends, co-workers, etc) learn about the program and sign-up to participate in the awesome cash back programs through Amazon, Ralphs, Box Tops and Farm Fresh! Do you have video creation skills? Perhaps a simple how-to video will do the job. Would you be comfortable supporting an information table during morning drop-off and/or afternoon pick-up times? If yes . . . we need YOU!

**Family Dinner Night** – We already have a lead volunteer to work with restaurants, set-up profit sharing events and promote them. But the team can always use more help to find new restaurants, not to mention spread the word around school and get families to come out. The first FDN of the year is scheduled for Wednesday 9/6 at Shake Shack in West Hollywood, but we need more on the calendar which means we need YOU to join in on this effort!

**Spirit Wear** - We need people to help us sell shirts and other Gardner Gear spirit wear before and after school once a week and at other events. It’s a great way to ease your way into volunteering while meeting a lot of the Gardner families.

**Party Book Host** – You think of and plan an off-campus event and act as the amazing host! Tickets are sold via Gardner’s party book website: [gardner.onlinepartybook.com](http://gardner.onlinepartybook.com). All proceeds from the event go toward the Gardner enrichment programs of art, music, PE, etc! Please contact PB chair Korbi via text 323 875 2700 if you want to host!

**Grant Writing** – Many organizations offer grants, so if you have experience writing grants or want to put your writing skills to the test, this is the role for you! We need one or two grant writers ASAP because some of the known grants have fast approaching deadlines!

**Gardner Green Recycling** – Each Monday morning, Gardner families bring their eligible recycling items (clean glass, aluminum and plastic bottles) to the school where a team of volunteers sort and package the items for delivery to the local redemption center. We need volunteers to help sort and drive the items to the redemption center on a rotating basis (e.g. once per month). Do you work in a place of business or live in a multi-dwelling unit building where your co-workers and/or neighbors will also contribute? If so, we would love your help to set-up a recycling bin in those areas.

**Creative Committee** – Are you a graphic design artist? Skilled in video creation/editing? Love art design? The Gardner Creative Committee would love to have you on board to help with a wide range of design tasks supporting various fundraiser initiatives as well as school-related matters.

**Gardner Greeters** – If you are a friendly face who has been at Gardner for at least one year and you enjoy connecting with others, this could be the role for you!

**Room Parents** – Support your classroom teacher and the class families with various tasks throughout the year to help things run smoothly and keep the classroom community informed and connected.

**Picnic Events** – Twice a year, we hope to host a picnic to bring families together and encourage community interaction. We need help contacting local restaurants for food donations and handing out fun treats (popcorn, water, etc) at the events.

**Garden Assistants** - Do you have a green thumb? Or at least don’t kill every plant you touch? Or perhaps you just want to learn a little more about gardening? We need gardening assistants to help keep the garden (and planted trees around the campus) alive and thriving. Ideally, if we get enough volunteers, we will set-up a rotating schedule for the watering duties to avoid overwhelming any single volunteer.

**Campus Beautification** – Throughout the year, we have plans to freshen up different areas of the school campus. This may involve updating the painted stencil areas on the playground, picking up trash, installing new benches and/or other features to make the campus more inviting for the students and their families. If you like to do hands-on work largely in an outdoor environment, this may be the volunteer activity for you!

**Art Room Volunteers** - Every student attends weekly art class and we are always in need of parents to help set up, wash paint brushes and encourage creative exploration.

**Science Lab Volunteers** – Teachers will bring their science instruction into the designated science lab and volunteers are needed to help set-up the space prior to students arriving as well as clean up the space after students leave.

Please note that certain roles may require special registration steps to become an LAUSD registered/approved volunteer. Volunteer Orientation will take place after school drop off on Tuesday, August 22nd at 8:30am in the auditorium. Please attend if you’re able to!

**We hope to hear from you! Parent volunteers are a huge part of Gardner’s success!**