

The Rewards of Volunteering at the PCA Parade By Vicki Pentecost

In today's busy world, one thing for sure is that volunteers make a tremendous difference in the world. Volunteers make improvements to things they are passionate about whether volunteering for the Red Cross, Peace Corp, Military, Environment, Fire Fighters, Olympics, literacy needs or other nonprofit organizations. Volunteers make the world a better place and PCA volunteers make PCA and the annual Porsche Parade a memorable experience.

As you complete your registration for the Keystone Parade this year, think about the quality of Parade and how each person can improve the experience for everyone by donating skills, time and passion. Once you've volunteered for an activity at Parade, it's likely you'll be volunteering again because of the fun.

If you enjoy Parade for the people, you may want to volunteer for registration where you will see just about every attendee and have the opportunity to reacquaint from previous years or learn about people and activities from other regions. If you want to see a huge smile and thank you; volunteer in the Welcome Tent where attendees are greeted with a refreshing drink and friendly smile after hours or days of driving to Parade. Hospitality is another place to spend time hosting people with refreshments and conversation. If you are new to the Parade scene, hospitality is known as the "meeting place." Hospitality is a place to rest in the afternoon, enjoy beverages and snacks, and visit with Porsche enthusiasts from around the world.

If you are attracted to the beauty of the cars; consider volunteering for the Concours d'Elegance or the display of non-judged cars in the Corral. You may get the opportunity to help stage the cars on a beautiful golf course, distribute and pickup box lunches or help keep everyone hydrated by delivering water to the judges. The Rally volunteers manage the checkpoints where the time-speed-distance rally enthusiasts combine their navigation, driving and timing skills together in a very competitive way. If you are attending Parade for the speed and thrill of the marquee, the autocross is where you'll want to volunteer. Courses are safely designed for drivers, volunteers and spectators, and volunteers are needed to stage the cars, assist in scoring, and work the corners where cones are hit and need to be put back in place before the next car on the track arrives.

If you have a creative perspective, the Art Show is filled with fun Porsche-inspired paintings, ceramics, purses, quilts, jewelry and more. The artists need Volunteers' to check in/out their art as well as having volunteers available to answer questions as spectators enjoy the art. Also volunteers help design and set out the centerpieces for the banquets as well as collect the meal tickets as people enter the banquets.

Many long-time Parade goers also enjoy the experience of working in the Goodie Store. This is the retail store filled with Parade logo items such as shirts, hats, cups and more, as well as Porsche books, PCA logo items and Porsche Design apparel. By volunteering to work in the store, you will get a first hand look at the merchandise as well as time to visit with Parade attendees as they shop for themselves, children, spouses and region door prizes to take back home.

For those with a technical or mechanical interest, consider volunteering to help facilitate the Technical Quiz or the car Safety Inspection.

As you can see, we need all your skills and passions to host the Porsche Parade. The strength of PCA comes from the volunteers. Get involved and see how much fun a group of volunteers can have in one week and how many life-long friendships will begin as a result of you volunteering to meet someone new as well as to improve the PCA and Porsche Parade experience.