



Request for 2024 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Husky Volunteers

Create Date: 01/16/2024

Due Date: 02/07/2024

Submitter Name: Erin Cousins

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Phone Number: 253-692-4366

Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Conor Leary

Requested Amount: **\$91,835**

Departmental Information

STUDENT UTILIZATION

The Husky Volunteers program (formerly known as the Center for Service and Leadership or the CSL) develops positive community and student growth through service and leadership opportunities. Funds received from SAFC go directly towards staffing five student positions and the resources needed to offer impactful programs and services to support the mission of the Husky Volunteers program, including the Husky Volunteers Medallion Program, the annual Day of Caring service event, and other coordinated service opportunities on campus and in the Tacoma community.

Husky Volunteers (HV) student leaders design and promote service opportunities that incorporate education and reflection so students who participate can make a difference in our community while learning about social issues and developing a strong sense of self. HV offers many programs that directly benefit students, such as the annual UWT Gives Holiday Gift Drive and group service projects with Registered Student Organizations (RSOs). Students taking part in their own service opportunities continue to log their hours with Husky Volunteers, which provides structure, reflection, and recognition for students who serve independently.

The services and programs offered by Husky Volunteers align with UW Tacoma's urban-serving mission. Our services and programs are dedicated to engaging students with our community in volunteer services. Volunteer services are a distinct way to gain a new perspective on what is going on in the community and identifying where help, funding, and resources are needed.

CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

We believe that the Husky Volunteers programs and services align with the following areas of the UW Tacoma strategic plan:

- **Students:** By participating in volunteer opportunities and subsequently reflecting on said experiences, students will advance professionally and personally.
- **Communities:** By encouraging and facilitating meaningful community partnerships, the HV programs teach students the importance and the advantages of working in community with other people. Additionally, by working in partnership with communities, students are taught the importance of empathy, humility, and relationality.
- **Scholarship:** The HV program is in the process of developing a new definition of service work that will be expanded to encompass volunteer work done for academic credit like service-learning classes and unpaid internships. Once it has been finalized, the new definition will of course be accompanied by outreach to faculty and advisors to increase student awareness of and access to the HV programs and services.
- **Equity:** The next few months will be spent developing an educational module that will be required by all participants in the Husky Volunteers Medallion program. Students will be given an opportunity to learn about deconstructing the savior mentality that can be prevalent in different kinds of humanitarian work. Instead, they'll learn about relationality, how to build relationships with community partners, and how to be accountable to their impact over their intentions. By providing pre-service trainings, the HV program both promotes and models inclusive excellence and social justice to the students that participate in service opportunities.
- **Vitality:** Our programs build a thriving community of students passionate about serving their community that is both welcoming and sustainable.

SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMES

This year saw the name change from the Center for Service and Leadership to Husky Volunteers. As such, the main goal for this year has been to establish recognition of the new name and its relation to the programs and services that were previously offered under the CSL name. As part of the name change, we're also spending this year redefining volunteer and service work for the Husky Volunteers Medallion program. We want to make this program as accessible to students as possible. Our work is always done in partnership with others, and so we've had several opportunities so far this year to work with both on- and off-campus partners to host and promote service opportunities.

With the introduction of DUBNET to campus in the beginning of the Fall 2023 quarter, Husky Volunteers were able to start tracking volunteer hours in a more accessible way. As DUBNET is still very new, we are continuing to promote the new method, especially to the volunteers who logged hours with us last year. We also created a new volunteer interest form hosted on DUBNET to make our team more accessible to students who are looking for volunteer opportunities that align with their interests. Students can meet one on one with our volunteer coordinator to get help finding a volunteer opportunity and signing up with the organization that they choose.

As we try to make volunteer work more accessible, we've started allowing volunteer hours from years prior to their years as students at UWT to count towards our Husky Volunteers Medallion Program. In an effort to promote building relationships with community partners and thinking more about impact over intent, we now offer hours to students for work they've done with organizations they continue to have a relationship with during their years at UWT. We are always working from student feedback to ensure that our program meets the needs of our current community of students, rather than the students for whom the program was developed years ago.

While the HV program has committed to planning and connecting students to monthly volunteer events, we didn't have the staffing to be able to provide it in the Fall quarter. Since filling in all the vacancies, however, we've hosted a Sock Drive which has collected enough donations to have to fill our donation bins twice over, with another two weeks left to donate.

Our work is never done, and we will continue to utilize feedback to improve our programs and services so that UW Tacoma students are excited to participate in Husky Volunteers' portfolio of programs. We are already surveying the student body for next year's improvements and new offerings, and hope to utilize SAF funding to make those suggestions a reality.

STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

So far during the 2023-2024 academic year, we've had 80 volunteers contribute volunteer hours to the Husky Volunteers program, and together they've logged a total of 2615.25 hours. One student logged a significant portion of those hours on their own, but we still have seen more engagement than last year. Again, this increase in the number of volunteers and hours is due in part to our efforts to make volunteer work and the Medallion program more accessible to students. It's also not unusual for student volunteers to wait until the end of the year to upload all their service hours for this year rather than going through the log form each time they volunteer, so we expect these numbers to keep increasing throughout the year. We had great participation at our Fall Day of Caring and our UWT Gives Wrapping Party events, so we know that people are volunteering. We just need to make sure they know about the Husky Volunteers Medallion program and the way they can log their hours. We are continuing to promote this program to the student body, and are working on furthering our outreach to students so they are interested in this program and its connection to the university's urban-serving mission.

Day of Caring is an annual event hosted by Husky Volunteers. We relaunched Day of Caring in May 2023 following a 3-year hiatus during COVID. After the Spring event which drew 42 student registrations and 25 volunteers at 2 different sites, we decided to move it from the Spring Quarter to the Fall Quarter. This way, Day of Caring functions as an event designed to welcome students back to campus as part of the CSI's Welcome Days initiative. It is also a great way to advertise the Husky Volunteer program to new and returning students. This Fall, Day of Caring had 119 registrations and 62 participants which indicates a significant increase in interest in the program from the Spring numbers. We worked with 6 community and campus partners. We heard from so many students that they liked Day of Caring and wanted to see similar programming that we are planning to bring it back in both the Fall and Spring quarters next year.

Husky Volunteers also partnered with the YMCA and ASUWT this year to put on the 11th annual UWT Gives. We saw a minor decline in participation with this event, but our team was still not fully staffed at that point. Still, we were able to partner with 3 UW Tacoma departments and 6 students who gifted on their own, all to donate 86 gifts to 10 UW Tacoma families.

COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

This year, we have moved all of our event check-ins, feedback surveys, and our method for tracking volunteer hours onto the new campus engagement platform, DUBNET. In order to log their volunteer hours with the HV program, students are asked to reflect on their volunteer experience and describe what they learned or gained from performing service in their community. During their senior years, students are asked to further reflect on their experiences working with Husky Volunteers and how their college experience was impacted by their volunteer opportunities in order to receive their medallions.

Through the log reflections this year, we learned that a lot of students were really pleased with the Day of Caring event and they wanted more chances to volunteer like that. The Husky Volunteers program only became a fully staffed team in December of 2023, so moving forward for the rest of the year, we plan to provide students more opportunities to volunteer by reviving our Monthly Service Projects. We also have plans to host two Days of Caring next year, one in the Fall and one in the Spring. We've also learned that students are really interested in volunteering on or near campus, so we are in the process of developing a list of organizations that are easily accessible from the UWT campus in order to facilitate more volunteer opportunities for students.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

Husky Volunteers provides an opportunity for students to connect with nonprofit organizations that align with their interests both personally and professionally. When student volunteers log their service hours with the HV program, they are asked a few reflection questions which will be followed by a more in-depth reflection in their senior year if they qualify for a medallion. By encouraging students to log their volunteer hours, students can reflect on their experiences in a meaningful way by drawing connections between their volunteer experiences and professional development. One example of this comes from a student who has been volunteering with their local Search and Rescue unit for the last two years: "My time spent with the unit helped illuminate just how fundamental it is to have good teamwork skills when you are engaged in any kind of organization. The largest hurdles I faced were not material ones (developing scenarios, finding equipment, teaching), they were the challenges faced when competing interests or solutions were presented within the unit. Learning to navigate these specific problems were some of the most difficult but more insightful experiences I had (and continue to have) with the unit, and have hammered home just how key leadership skills are. I find myself better able to navigate conflicts between parties when dealing with things people have very strong feelings around, importantly by understanding the desired effect the parties wish to have, and discerning ways to synthesize these interests with those of others."

The Husky Volunteers program invites students to connect with local organizations that align with their interests. In doing so, students actively add value to the Tacoma community. Furthermore, our volunteer events have helped students to connect with each other while working towards a common goal. This year, we've heard from many students that on-campus volunteer opportunities help them get involved in meaningful ways. An example of this comes from a student who participated in our annual Day of Caring event in the Fall 2023 quarter: "The Day of Caring is a 100% recommend, and I look forward to taking part in this event again next year. It was such an enjoyable and meaningful experience, and I got to make many great connections with my fellow students. I think this is a wonderful way to experience the unique kind of joy that comes from making a positive impact on others' lives without expecting anything in return." Our monthly volunteer events provide students with the opportunity to connect with other students as well as community organizations that provide impactful services to the Tacoma community. As we are rebuilding a post-pandemic community, it seems clear that students need opportunities to connect with others now more than ever. Through our Husky Volunteers program and group volunteer events, students are encouraged to take action in the community and know that we are here to support them every step of the way.

Staff Budget Requests


Category	Details	Amount Requested
Student Staff ³	Summer and Training Wages for Student Manager E001	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$3,542
	Fringe @ 20.5%:	\$726
Student Staff ³	Academic Year Wages for 4 Student Coordinators E002	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$37,118
	Fringe @ 20.5%:	\$7,609
Student Staff ³	Summer and Training Wages for 4 Student Coordinators E003	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$9,768
	Fringe @ 20.5%:	\$2,002
Student Staff ³	Academic Year for Student Manager E004	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$9,850
	Fringe @ 20.5%:	\$2,019
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$72,635

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Contracted Services	Speaker Honorariums (for new educational module)	S001 \$2,000
Travel	UCAR and Bus Rentals for Volunteer Events in the Community	S002 \$1,500
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	Monthly Volunteer Event Supplies	S003 \$2,000
	Spring Volunteer Fair Supplies	S004 \$1,000
	Promotional Items	S005 \$4,000
	Husky Volunteers Medallions (to replace the ones that have the CSL logos)	S006 \$1,500
	Staff Nametags and Business Cards	S007 \$200
	Fall Quarter Day of Caring Supplies	S008 \$2,000
	Spring Quarter Day of Caring Supplies	S009 \$2,000
Food	Food for Staff Trainings, Pre-Event Trainings, and Day-Long Service Events (including 2 Day of Caring Events)	S010 \$3,000
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		\$19,200

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$72,635
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$19,200
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$91,835

Supplemental Documents

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HUSKY VOLUNTEERS STUDENT JOB DESCRIPTIONS
 Job descriptions for the 5 student jobs offered by the Husky Volunteers program.
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HUSKY VOLUNTEERS ENGAGEMENT DATA
 Data for event attendance, impact, spending, and volunteer hours recorded by the Husky Volunteers program during the Spring quarter of 2023 and the 2023-2024 academic year so far.