



Trainer Directory

These local volunteer management professionals have expressed interest in providing training and/or consulting tailored to meet your organization's needs. Please contact them directly to determine their fit for your needs and to negotiate compensation.

Erin L. Barnhart, Ph.D.

Erin L. Barnhart, Ph.D. is the Founder & President of Effective Altruism, LLC, as well as Director of Operations for the American Gap Association. In addition, she serves on the Board of Directors for the Building Bridges Coalition, as a member of the Oregon Committee on Volunteerism, and as an online instructor for AmeriCorps VISTA and an adjunct professor at the University of Oregon and Concordia University-Portland. A former Fulbright Scholarship recipient and AmeriCorps NCCC alum, Dr. Barnhart earned her Ph.D. in Urban Studies from Portland State University in 2012, having completed her dissertation research on global host organizations of international volunteers. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Geography, a Master of Public Administration, and a Graduate Certificate in Not-for-Profit Management, all from the University of Oregon.



Expertise:

- Effective Strategies for Dynamic Outreach and Communications
- Building Stronger Staff-Volunteer Relationships
- Fostering an Organizational Culture That Welcomes Volunteers
- Engaging Pro Bono, Skilled, and Entrepreneurial Volunteers
- Using Social Media to Find and Build Community with Volunteers
- Advocacy Strategies for Volunteer Engagement Professionals

- Volunteering as a Gateway to Career Development
- Ideal audiences include local/regional/state/national organizations, national service, DOVIAs, international service/service-learning organizations, and academic institutions.

Availability:

- One month advanced notice preferred for full or partial day trainings.
- In-person or online/webinars

Contact:

- erin@erinbarnhart.com
- www.erinbarnhart.com
- [LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/erinbarnhart](https://www.linkedin.com/in/erinbarnhart)

Amber Bruner, PHR

Amber Bruner works as a Human Resources professional and has served in a volunteer management capacity for 10+ years. Amber currently holds the position of HR Associate and Program Manager for Oregon Health & Science University's Research & Academic Volunteer program. With a Bachelor's degree in Communication from Portland State University, Amber has a passion for public speaking and facilitating. As part of her program management role, Amber regularly presents and facilitates orientations, information sessions, workshops, progress presentations to institutional leaders, and community speaking engagements. Amber specializes in training topics that include change management, people and teams in project management, various human resource topics, and public speaking. The Research & Academic Volunteer program registers over 900 volunteers annually, supports over 150 departments, programs, centers and institutes, and partners with community organizations and universities throughout the state of Oregon.



Expertise:

- Project team member management, public speaking training, creating effective presentations, and change management
- Ideal audience would be new volunteer managers for basic training.

Availability:

- Preference for short presentations with one month's notice
- Available any day but Sunday

Contact:

- bruner@ohsu.edu, 503-494-4517
- LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/AmberBrunerPHR
- Twitter: @Amber_Bruner_

Additional Resources available on request:

- Resume
- Past Training Evaluations

Liza J Dyer, [CVA](#)

Liza has over 10 years of experience in the nonprofit and public sectors including libraries, museums, and science centers. Liza is currently a Program Coordinator in Volunteer Services at Multnomah County Library, a public library system which engages over 1,900 volunteers annually. Outside of work, Liza holds leadership positions with [Northwest Oregon Volunteer Administrators Association](#), [Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Portland](#), and the [Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration](#). Interests and specialties include volunteer engagement, social media, training, mentoring, nonprofit technology, professional development, informal and free-choice learning, evaluation, and storytelling. Liza also created [Volunteer Management Snark](#), a Tumblr that embraces the snarky side of volunteer engagement. She also participates in a weekly online conversation for leaders of volunteers known as [Thoughtful Thursdays](#). Liza has a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science and a Certification in Volunteer Administration.



Expertise:

- Social media and website development
- Visual communication, including resources, tools, and trends
- Professional development planning and tracking
- Ideal audiences would be nonprofit or government organizations, environmental organizations, and AmeriCorps.

Availability:

- One month advanced noticed for partial day trainings

Contact:

- lizaj@multcolib.org, 503.988.6256
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lizajdyer>

- Personal Website: <https://lizajdyer.wordpress.com/>
- Twitter: @lizaface

Additional Resources available on request:

- Past Training Evaluations

Nancy A Gaston, CVA

Nancy A. Gaston has almost twenty years of experience in volunteer resources management. She has been a high school teacher and has directed a volunteer-staffed crisis line, a volunteer chore service, and a volunteer center. She was also Director of Christian Development—a position combining volunteer ministry and the educational program—for a faith congregation. She is past chair of Region X (Pacific Northwest) of the former Association for Volunteer Administration (AVA) and past President of AVA. She is now a trainer and consultant with her own business, Gifts Differing. Besides keynoting and presenting regularly on volunteer resources management, meeting management and leadership at regional, national and international conferences, Nancy is a retreat leader, trainer and consultant for many church groups on spiritual formation, spiritual gifts and personality, and lay ministry programs. She also works as a facilitator for nonprofit and governmental boards and advisory councils. Nancy also has been an adjunct faculty member of Portland Community College, Marylhurst University and Washington State University, Vancouver. Educational background includes a degree in English with certification in secondary education from Eastern Michigan University and a degree in theology from McGill University, Montreal. She is certified as a Human Behavior Consultant and trained as a consultant in lay ministry. Nancy is also a Certified Volunteer Administrator (CVA), a performance-based credential. She has edited numerous newsletters and magazines and has had articles printed in more than a dozen publications and chapters in three books. She enjoys reading, writing and walking in her leisure time. Volunteer work includes serving on nonprofit boards, including presidency of the Assistance League of Southwest Washington, mentoring high school Advanced Placement classes, teaching Junior Achievement classes and being a “lunch buddy” to a third grader. Nancy and her husband, Mike, have three grown daughters scattered around the country, one grandson and a cat, Sam, who lives in (and rules) their home in Vancouver, WA.



Expertise:

- Strengthening your board, generational differences in the workplace, participation styles, volunteer management ethics, trends in volunteering.
- Experienced training all topics and audiences

Availability:

- One week advanced notice for a one-hour training.
- One month advanced notice for longer sessions.
- Generally not available Thursdays.

Contact:

- Gifts Differing: 12516 NE Fifth Court, Vancouver, WA 98685
- Phone: 360-574-0984 (b), 360-910-3189 (c), 360-258-1573 (f)
- Email: nancyg57@comcast.net
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/nancy-gaston>

Additional Resources available on request:

- Resume
- Evaluation from Oregon Community Foundation Training
- Feedback from past training attendees

Nancy Loso, CVA

Nancy Loso has over 15 years of nonprofit experience, primarily in social services management. Her early career focused on direct-service work with adults with disabilities, at a residential home for boys, and as a child advocate at a domestic violence shelter. She has spent the last six years developing and maintaining the infrastructure for nearly 1,000 diverse volunteers each year at Volunteers of America Oregon and the last three years as Program Chair and then President of the volunteer-run Northwest Oregon Volunteer Administrators Association. Nancy thrives when able to facilitate opportunities for people to transform themselves and their communities by evaluating the existing culture and systems, and finding ways to improve on them by creating a compelling shared vision, breaking down the steps to achieving it, and evaluating and celebrating how the process created change. Nancy is certified in conflict management through Portland Community College, holds a Certificate in



Nonprofit Management from Portland State University, and holds the international Certified in Volunteer Administration (CVA) credential.

Expertise:

- Training and/or coaching, including needs assessment, for individuals or small teams wanting to create and/or revitalize volunteer programming
- Social service and/or volunteer-run organizations

Availability:

- One-week advanced notice for one-time or on-going coaching or training.

Contact:

- Nancy.j.los@gmail.com, 503-805-7756
- Nancy Loso on Linked In

Additional Resources available on request:

- Resume
- Past Training Evaluations

Melia Tichenor

After serving two terms as an AmeriCorps member with Hands On Greater Portland, Melia Tichenor joined the permanent staff as Eastside Program Manager in 2009. Through her support of nonprofit partners, she has helped organizations develop a wide array of episodic volunteer projects, both for the Hands On Project Calendar and for various national days of service. In addition to her work with Hands On's nonprofit partners, Melia runs the Hands On Greater Portland TeamWorks program, which brings together teams of 10-12 volunteers to explore specific issue area or neighborhood through the lens of service learning and experiential education. Melia received her Certified Volunteer Administrator (CVA) credential in May 2014 and is currently a graduate student in the PACE program at PSU's Graduate School of Education, focusing on service-learning and community-based education.



Expertise:

- Episodic volunteer project development and best practices
- Service-Learning project development and best practices
- “Make an Impact: The Many faces of Service in the Greater Portland Area” presentation (includes workshop component)

- Ideal audience would be AmeriCorps members, new volunteer managers, educators and nonprofit managers interested in forming service-learning partnerships, school groups, and/or other community groups

Availability:

- One week advanced notice for pre-developed one-hour or basic training.
- One month advanced notice for customized trainings or longer workshops.

Contact:

- Email: melia@handsonportland.org
- Phone: 503-200-3370

Additional Resources available on request:

- Past Training Evaluation: “AmeriCorps Kick-Off Workshop: Working with Episodic Volunteers”
- Sample presentation to students for PSU’s HealthyU challenge:
<http://echo360.pdx.edu/ess/echo/presentation/93ba0982-012a-4c21-9a85-585413d01676?ec=true>