



SARP Center

Sexual Assault Recovery & Prevention Center of SLO County

December 2, 2009

Dear Potential Volunteer,

Thank you for the interest you have expressed in the SARP Center and our volunteer training program: *Comprehensive Education and Training on Sexual Assault and Crisis Intervention*. Our Winter Training will begin in February. It is necessary to attend every training session to receive certification as a CA Sexual Assault Counselor. Training sessions will be held at the SARP Center on the following dates and times:

February 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25

March 2, 4, 9, 11

Tuesday and Thursday classes are held from 6:00pm- 10:00pm

After we receive your completed application, it will be reviewed by the Executive Director and the Crisis Services Coordinator. If your application is accepted, we will invite you to an interview with SARP Center Staff. Invitation to the training program will be issued after a successful interview. Please review the *Sexual Assault Counselor Training Qualifications* and *Sexual Assault Counselor Position Description*. An exit interview will take place after the 48 hours of training, prior to volunteering the crisis line or serving with the agency. Completion of training does not necessarily mean placement on the 24-hour crisis line.

SARP Center Volunteers are asked to commit to the following:

- Three to four shifts per month on the crisis line
- Attending monthly In-Service Meetings
- Serving as a volunteer for 6 months

There is a \$75.00 materials fee to cover the cost of training materials for those who commit to serving as a SARP Center Volunteer for six months. If this is a financial hardship arrangements can be made. For those who choose to go through the training for professional development, without a commitment to volunteer, there is a \$125.00 course fee.

The Volunteer Application needs to be completed and returned by Friday, **January 22, 2010**. Feel free to contact the SARP Center with any questions concerning the application process, training, or the role of volunteers within our agency. We look forward to hearing from you. We value and cherish our volunteers as we could not provide our services without their dedication and service.

Sincerely,

Shannon Rangel

Shannon Rangel
Crisis Service Coordinator



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Sexual Assault Counselor Position Description

POSITION DESCRIPTIONS:

Volunteers serve the agency in a wide variety of ways as Sexual Assault Crisis Counselors including:

Advocacy/Accompaniment - accompanying a survivor to law enforcement interviews, forensic medical exams and court proceedings and acting as an advocate and a support person.

Peer Counseling – providing information and support to survivors and significant others of survivors in person as a specially trained sexual assault peer counselor.

Telephone Hotline – providing information and support to callers twenty-four hours a day on our crisis hotline.

Education/Prevention – assisting our education team with education and prevention in the classroom as well as with self-defense instruction.

Administrative – volunteer opportunities for clerical work are abundant and include data input, assisting with general mailings, and assembling packets.

Special Events – planning and participating in events such as Walk-a-Mile in Her Shoes: A Men’s March to Stop Rape, An Evening with an Artist, and SARP Night at the Movies.

Community Information Tables - volunteers staff prevention and education tables at community health fairs, farmer’s markets, and other events.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: Must obtain a Sexual Assault Crisis Counselor Certificate by attending a minimum of 48 hours of comprehensive training on all aspects of rape, sexual assault, crisis intervention, resource and referral counseling, hotline response, hospital, law enforcement and court procedures in accordance with California Penal Code 13835.10. This training is offered by the Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention Center of San Luis Obispo County. All volunteers of the SARP Center must become Sexual Assault Crisis Counselors. Additionally, all Sexual Assault Crisis Counselors are required to attend mandatory monthly In-Service Meetings. There is a \$75 fee that will help cover the costs of training material and manuals. Scholarships are available if need is demonstrated. There is a \$125 professional development course fee for those who do not wish to make a commitment to volunteering with the SARP Center.

SUPERVISION:

Work under supervision by the Crisis Services Coordinator following established agency policies and procedures. Participate in a cooperative evaluation process.

QUALIFICATIONS: Ability to communicate with compassion and empathy. Must be patient, nonjudgmental and able to demonstrate sensitivity to the cultural/ethnic diversity of the client base. Must maintain client confidentiality. Must have a valid California driver’s license, reliable transportation and legally mandated automobile liability insurance. (You will not be required to transport clients.) Please see *Sexual Assault Counselor Training Qualifications* for a complete list of qualifications.



Sexual Assault Counselor Training Qualifications

Because of the nature and intensity of the training program, applicants must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- Applicants must have an interest in assisting sexual assault survivors and significant others.
- Applicants must be 18 years of age.
- Sexual assault survivors must be emotionally ready to assist other survivors, be no less than a year past their own assault/abuse experience, and must have received some counseling or therapy.
- Past or present perpetrators of sexual or physical abuse and/or any violent crime are not eligible to participate in Sexual Assault Counselor Training.
- Applicants must give consent for and understand that the Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention Center conducts a fingerprint criminal background check on all staff and volunteers.
- Applicants with a history of chemical dependency must have been clean and sober for at least five years prior to training.
- Applicants must be able to attend all training sessions.
- Volunteer applicants must be able to attend mandatory monthly in-service meetings.
- Volunteer applicants must commit to six months of volunteer service with the Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention Center.

The Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention (SARP) Center staff reserves the right to refuse enrollment to anyone whom they feel is not suitable to the program. Participation in training does not guarantee certification as a sexual assault counselor, nor does it guarantee a volunteer assignment.

I have read and understand the qualifications listed above.

Signature

Date

6. Please describe how you react in a crisis situation.

7. Have you used SARP Center services in the past?

8. Please use this space for any additional info you would like to share.

9. Would you be willing to make a 6-month commitment to SARP Center? _____

10. Will you consent to a fingerprint background check? _____

11. Have you ever been convicted of a felony? _____

12. Could you attend mandatory monthly In-Service meetings? _____

13. Can you commit to attending a 48-hour Training Session? _____

14. Are you going to request financial assistance to cover the cost of materials (\$75)? _____

Please list three references including one profession/academic and one personal:

- a.
- b.
- c.

The information given is complete and truthful. I understand the conditions under which I will be volunteering. I understand that completion of the training does not constitute acceptance to the crisis line. In addition, I have read, understand, and meet the Sexual Assault Counselor Training Qualification.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

<u>For office use only</u>	
Application accepted	Y N _____
Called for Interview	_____
Interview scheduled for	_____
Interview completed	_____
Invited to Training	_____
Accepted Invitation	Y N _____