

# Who Inspires You?

## BE THE DIFFERENCE AWARDS



[www.scvolunteercenter.org](http://www.scvolunteercenter.org)

### Join us in celebrating the individuals, groups, and businesses who strive to Be the Difference through volunteerism in Santa Cruz County!

Do you know a friend, neighbor, business or nonprofit community group who makes their moments matter through volunteerism? Show how their commitment matters by nominating them to receive a Be the Difference Award!

**Submit your nominees using this form, then plan to join us May 8, 2024 at the Coconut Grove Ballroom to celebrate the changemakers who strive to Be the Difference in our community!**

The Annual Be the Difference Awards, hosted by the Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County, honors the Top 50 individuals, organizations & businesses who do the most to transform Santa Cruz County through volunteerism. A panel of community leaders reviews nominations with consideration for the amount of volunteer effort, overall impact on community, and how the nominee inspires others to *be the difference*.

#### **Nominating is easy! Here's how to do it:**

1. Choose an individual, community group/nonprofit organization, or business to nominate – *each individual or organization may submit up to three nominations.*
2. Complete this form for each nomination you submit.
3. Prepare a descriptive essay **of at least 250 but not more than 600 words describing the nominee's volunteer work. The essay should include the following:**
  - a. How is our community better because of your nominee's efforts?
  - b. What do you find inspiring about this individual's work as a volunteer?
  - c. Include specifics about your nominee's volunteering that best illustrate the impact of this volunteer. Examples include how many years of volunteer service; places/people helped; hours contributed; and their impact on the community, with a compelling story!
4. **Return this form no later than February 28, 2024.**
  - a. MAIL TO:  
The Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County  
1740 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062
  - b. Or email [bethedifference@scvolunteercenter.org](mailto:bethedifference@scvolunteercenter.org)
5. Questions? Email [bethedifference@scvolunteercenter.org](mailto:bethedifference@scvolunteercenter.org) or call **831-427-5070**.

# 2023 Be the Difference Awards NOMINATION FORM

**Nominee Category:** *Please choose one Nominee Type below.*

**An Individual** for their unpaid, volunteer efforts that make Santa Cruz County a better place.

*This individual is a Youth under the age of 21*

How many hours a month does the nominee volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

**A Group or Nonprofit Organization** for effectively engaging volunteers in meaningful service.

How many Santa Cruz County Volunteers in this group? \_\_\_\_\_

**A Business** that makes a positive difference in our community by promoting employee volunteerism.

Number of Employees in Santa Cruz County: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Employees Volunteering: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Employee Volunteer Hours Contributed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Which Impact Category Best Describes Your Nominee's Service?

*Choose all that apply:*

- Arts & Culture
- Building Community
- Environment Stewardship & Sustainability
- Health & Wellness
- Social & Economic Justice
- Youth & Family Empowerment

## Submit a Compelling Essay About Your Nominee's Service

Please submit an essay of 250 to 600 words that describes your nominee's volunteerism. Essay may be typed into the text box below, or included in a separate document, and should include the following:

- How is our community better because of your nominee's efforts?
- What do you find inspiring about your nominee's volunteer work or efforts to support community volunteerism?
- Include specifics about your nominee's volunteering that best illustrate the impact of this volunteer. Examples include how many years of volunteer service; places/people helped; hours contributed; and their impact on the community, **with a compelling story!**

# 2024 Be the Difference Awards NOMINATION FORM

## Nominee Contact Information

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business or Organization Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact for Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Your Contact Information

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business or Organization Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form no later than February 28, 2024.**

**Return by email to:** [bethedifference@scvolunteercenter.org](mailto:bethedifference@scvolunteercenter.org)

**Or drop off / mail to:**

The Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County, 1740 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

**Questions? Email [bethedifference@scvolunteercenter.org](mailto:bethedifference@scvolunteercenter.org) or call 831-427-5070.**