

## Community Corner: Make a Difference Day is Saturday

### Significant project is Make a Difference Day on Saturday

*By Kyra Gottesman, Correspondent*

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Chico >> This year for Make a Difference Day, Chico State University's CAVE students will be celebrating with paintbrushes, shovels and garbage bags a week ahead of the national community service day.

It's the 50th anniversary of CAVE, the Associated Students' Community Action Volunteers in Education. They are moving up Make A Difference Day by a week — from Aug. 22 to this Saturday — to coincide with the organization's anniversary.

Chico State CAVE participants are teaming up with local businesses, service organizations and churches for this service day event.

“The university values civic engagement and the city of Chico is known for its volunteerism. CAVE's 50th anniversary is the perfect occasion to kick off a campus and community service project so we're doing Make A difference Day a week early,” said Ann Schwab, CAVE director.

In the past, CAVE Make A Difference Day service projects have only been open to the organization's student members and have focused largely on cleanup projects in Bidwell Park and the neighborhood south of campus.

But this year the day of service is open to all university students and locations are throughout the city.

“We will have 300 student volunteers,” said Schwab.

#### **Team effort**

The student volunteers will be teaming with local businesses, service organizations and churches for projects ranging from trash pickup in local parks and along bike trails to touching up the paint on the playground at a local elementary school.

“We are working with the chamber of commerce, the Downtown (Chico) Business Association and the North Valley Community Foundation. Two hundred community members are joining the students,” said Schwab.

Bidwell Presbyterian Church, city of Chico Parks Division, Chico Noon Rotary, Kiwanis Club of Greater Chico, Stairways Programing, Golden Valley Bank and the Torres Shelter are among those participating.

About 20 volunteers from Bidwell Presbyterian Church's Mission Ministry program are set to partner with students to touch up the paint on the playground at Citrus School and assisting in setting up science projects for the kids.

“I'm going to be out there and I'm excited. I'm big on seeing kids get excited about science so this will be fun,” said Patty Davidson, administrative assistant for Mission Ministry.

Volunteers will be working from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will be treated to a free barbecue hosted by the Chico Police Officers Association.

CAVE's mission is to provide "meaningful volunteer opportunities for Chico State students to develop student leaders and to serve a broad range of community needs," said Schwab.

Last year, 2,056 students volunteered 69,030 hours and interacted with 12,429 individuals in the community, according to Schwab.

"We blend campus and community together and what better way than through service," she said.

For more, visit <https://chicochamber.com/events/mddaychico> or call 898-5817.

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