



Using Community Service or AWP Workers to Help Save on Grounds Maintenance Costs? Here are Some Tips to Help Reduce your Risk Exposure, Too

One money-saving way your fair can get some extra help with grounds maintenance is by using community service (CS) or alternate work program (AWP) workers. Before you make the call to the county to set something up; however, there are some things you need to know, especially if you've never used CS or AWP workers at your fair before.

For instance, did you know that for workers' compensation purposes, community service and AWP workers are considered employees, not volunteers? Whose employees are they? The fair's AND the county's. This means either your fair or the county has to provide these workers with full workers' compensation benefits. Because of the added risk exposure these workers present to CFSA's Workers' Compensation Pool, CFSA recommends that the county be the one to provide the coverage. In fact, there should be a written agreement between the county and the fair identifying the terms and conditions for the use of these workers, including who's responsible for the workers' compensation coverage.

Sample community service and AWP worker forms are on CFSA's website, www.cfsa.org/selfinsure/workcomp/alt_work.htm and in your fair's Red Book (*Claims and Loss Reporting Guide*). CFSA strongly recommends that pool members use form #1, which requires the county to provide coverage. If

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Job Opening:

Alameda County Fair Competitive Exhibit Supervisor

The Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton is seeking a full-time Competitive Exhibits Supervisor. Salary range: \$50,000 - \$55,000 annually, based on experience.

Job qualifications include "...responsible experience in designing, promoting, organizing and managing at least five major shows or exhibits, each drawing a minimum of 1,000 entries." Shows used to establish eligibility include: exhibits such as art, museum or trade, consumer show or livestock show. Knowledge of standard fair practices, procedures and diversity of fair activities is also desired.

The competitive exhibit supervisor is responsible for planning, organizing, promoting and directing the annual fair competitive exhibits, special exhibits and special events.

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Maintenance Mania '12 is February 7 - 9. Sign up Online!

If you or your fair's maintenance staff have yet to sign up for Maintenance Mania, there's still time (just not much!). Simply go to www.maintenancemania.com and click on "Register Online." All California fair maintenance staff and fair management staff are encouraged to attend, as are WFA service members (\$75 materials fee for service members). Maintenance Mania is still free for all California fairs!

This year's event is condensed into one session, at one location - the Kern County Fairgrounds. It begins on Tuesday, February 7 (so there's no overtime Sunday travel required) and ends on Thursday, February 9 after lunch.

New for the year are training sessions on E. coli, pesticides, and CalOSHA compliance. A full listing of events is available on the Maintenance Mania website.

Equipment Certifications are on Tuesday this year (applicants must have minimum drive time). Space is limited;

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Deadlines, Deadlines Remember to Return Your Workers' Compensation Report Form, and Your Revenue Protection Program Application to CFSA

In early January, Lianne Lewellen, CFSA's risk analyst, sent out Workers' Compensation Report forms to all Workers' Compensation pool member fairs, and Revenue Protection Program participation applications to all California fairs. The Workers' Compensation form is due back to CFSA by Friday, February 17, and the Revenue Protection application, along with applicable fees, is due by Friday, February 24.

If you have questions about either form or program, please contact Lianne at 916/263-6145 or llewellen@cfsa.org.

Western Fairs Association's Annual Convention & Trade Show Rocks Anaheim

The 89th annual Western Fairs Association (WFA) Convention and Trade Show opened on January 8 at the Anaheim Marriott for the start of a highly successful four-day run. Here, courtesy of the WFA team, are some of the Convention's highlights:

Attendance: Stronger than usual walk-up registration and on-site memberships helped push total attendance to 1,287 with an estimated 550 attending Sunday's Imagination Ball at the Orange County Fair & Event Center.

The largest attendee, escorted by WFA Service Member Have Trunk, Will Travel, was Tai the elephant, recent star of the box office hit *Water for Elephants*, weighing in at 2,382 pounds!

Trade Show: The two-day Trade Show and NICA Food Show was a sell out. There were 128 exhibitors with every imaginable industry product and service, along with plenty of the show's most popular ingredient — free food!

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"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."

~ Albert Einstein



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Let's hear from you!
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www.cfsa.org
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“Someone’s sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”

~ Warren Buffett

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CFSA is on Facebook!

Current events, program updates, photos, safety training tips, info alerts, grant opportunities - you’ll find all this and more on CFSA’s Facebook page.

To make sure you’re in the CFSA Facebook loop, click the “Like” button on our page. You can even sign up to receive CFSA news on your phone. Simply go to www.Facebook.com/CaliforniaFairServicesAuthority. You’ll also find a direct link from CFSA’s web page, www.cfsa.org.

CS and AWP Tips, continued

this isn’t an option, use form #2. (Note: When using form #2, it’s the fair’s responsibility to report the hours worked by the community service and AWP workers to CFSA annually for fee assessment purposes.) If you need help with either form, please contact Steve Kushida, CFSA’s workers’ compensation administrator, 916/263-6172 or skushida@cfsa.org.

In addition, you can also contact Tom Amberson, CFSA’s safety manager, 916/263-6180 or tamberson@cfsa.org, for tips and insights on community service and AWP worker training and supervision.

“Remember, these workers aren’t trained on your equipment,” Tom notes, “It’s worth your time to make sure they know how to do the jobs they’re being asked to do, as well as the necessary safety precautions, such as wearing ear and eye protection when operating a leaf blower. Training gives the worker accountability for his actions and reduces your fair’s risk exposure.” (And, make sure you document all training.) He added that many counties are eager to find work for their community service and AWP workers, so they need your fair as much as your fair needs them - so don’t be hesitant in your worker or insurance coverage negotiations.

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On the topic of training. . . . When asked what specific training he recommends for Community Service and AWP workers, Tom Amberson began by saying, “First and foremost, take a broad approach to your CS and AWP worker training.” Safety topics he strongly recommends covering are:

1) Your fair’s Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP). Specifically, your fair’s:

- Safety Policy Statement
- Safety Communication Policy
- Training Policy
- Disciplinary procedures for safety infractions
- Code of Safe Practices (general safety rules)
- Your fair’s Hazard Communication program, including an overview of the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), where they’re kept at the fair and how to investigate an accident; and Safety Procedures, such as safe handling of chemicals and use of personal protective equipment

Workers should also be trained on the safety requirements of their specific job and any “unwritten” safety rules that exist at your fair. Job training should include “history,” e.g., accidents that may have occurred to others performing the same tasks, and the preventative measures now in place.

“ ‘Zero injuries’ is our goal,” Tom emphasized. “Prevention is always the prevailing theme.”

Alameda County Fair, continued

Other qualifications include exceptional organization skills and the ability to multi-task. Computer skills (ability to use Microsoft Office software programs), experience supervising at least 20 people, excellent written communication skills and the ability to be a team player. Experience in grant proposal writing and using ShoWorks is preferred, but not required.

For a complete job description and a copy of the Supplemental Questionnaire, required along with your resume, visit the Alameda County Fair website: www.alamedacountyfair.com/Employment.php.

Send your resume and a completed Supplemental Questionnaire to:

Vicki Hunter, Alameda County Fair Association,
4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton, CA, 94566, or
fax 925/426-5192 or e-mail to jobs@alamedacountyfair.com.

Maintenance Mania, continued

please sign up in advance.

Stay at Hotel Rosedale

Hotel reservations made by January 23, 2012, will receive a special Maintenance Mania room rate of \$53 (plus tax and \$3.50 resort fee) per night. A Continental breakfast is included. Go to www.HotelRosedale.com or call toll free: 1-800/430-7627 (Local: 661/327-0681).

Remember to mention you’re with Maintenance Mania.

Questions? Contact CFSA safety specialist Charlie Wiglesworth at CFSA, 916/263-6183 or cwiglesworth@cfsa.org.

WFA Convention, continued

Performances: The Convention kicked off with stirring renditions of the Canadian and U.S. national anthems by the Rock Bottom Boys at Monday’s Opening General Session. (A grand total of 15 acts and attractions performed on the Showcase stages!)

Programming: Core sessions from Garrison Wynn, Rey O’Day and returning keynote Kelly McDonald were all well received, as was a new feature sponsored by NICA West that gave a group of 136 delegates the opportunity to tour the Sysco Demonstration Kitchen in Walnut.

Awards: Among the many awards presented at the Convention was the prestigious Barham Award going to Ken McMeans, Ken McMeans Presents, and Nancy Chapman, Chapman Fashion International. The coveted Merrill Award went to the Big Fresno Fair for their *Feed the Need* program (it set a national single day record for food donations, collecting more than 108,000 pounds of food). And Sonoma County Fair CEO Tawny Tesconi and Theater-16 President Ernie Guderjahn were inducted into the WFA Hall of Fame. Congratulations to all!

Mark your 2013 Calendar:

The 90th WFA Convention and Trade Show is set for Reno, Nevada, Sunday - Wednesday, January 20 - 23.

For more information about Western Fairs Association, visit www.westernfairs.org or call 916/927-3100.