

I have had a wonderful, positive, and fulfilling experience volunteering at the Hahamongna Cooperative Nursery over the past few months. I found out about the nursery through nursery manager Nick Hummingbird and felt immediately welcomed by Nick and everyone in attendance upon my first visit. During each volunteer session, I have learned more and more about the native plant species of SoCal, how to identify them, and why their survival and propagation is important to the land, people, and animals. Nick has set up a beautiful space for volunteers to come and help re-pot native plant seedlings and cuttings as well as plant more mature plants into the ground. The volunteers have also had the opportunity to go out into the Arroyo Seco and learn to identify and remove invasive plant species. Nick and the other volunteers have created a real sense of community and the desire to be stewards of the land for future generations. There is so much potential for the nursery to continue growing native plants that can be utilized in government, business, and residential properties around Pasadena and the surrounding areas, and to educate the local community about how to make positive changes in our environment. As an avid hiker and someone who grew up next door to a nature preserve in Northern CA, helping to preserve and protect natural areas is a cause close to my heart. I have wanted to volunteer for a long time and Nick and the group at the Hahamongna Cooperative nursery have made it an easy and pleasurable experience. I am a busy professional with my own business and I have made the time to spend a few hours each week at the Hahamongna Cooperative Nursery because the work being done has such a clear positive impact on the local environment and is being done in an effective and efficient manner. Pasadena is lucky to have Nick and the Hahamongna Cooperative Nursery championing for its future.

Katherine Hawkes