

Voters' Guide



HOW TO VOTE

When you receive your ballot, your job as a voter is to rank each candidate in order of preference:

Give lower numbers to your favorites. Give higher numbers to your least favorites (Ex: #1 is your first choice and #4 is your last choice) You do not have to put a vote for every candidate. Candidates who are not ranked are treated as your last choice. You can use the same number for more than one candidate to show you rank them equally.

A note on the Schulze Method of Voting

The Volunteer Representative Elections will be decided by the Schulze Method of voting which is used by Wikimedia, Debian and Gentoo. It is a preferential voting system -- meaning that it compares each voters' preferences with those of the other voters, candidate by candidate.

The math behind the calculations can be quite complicated, but fortunately we have software to do the job for us. As a voter, all you need to worry about is ranking the candidates in order of your preference.

provide technology to members of the community while serving more people. She wants to raise awareness of its mission and recruit more volunteers into the Build and Post-Build Programs and work closer with schools to recruit more kids and at-risk youth into our volunteer programs. Nina would also like to see the Laptops Program be able to offer Laptops to volunteers.

Nina comes to Free Geek with volunteer experience as well tutoring and event-planning experience. Through these activities she learned patience and flexibility and gained listening, organizational and leadership skills. Nina is patient, committed, and works well with others. She knows how to organize and communicate ideas. She believes her volunteer experience would benefit the Board because she is well acquainted with the organization as a whole. For example, going through the Build Program, Nina was faced with challenges that she had to overcome and that experience has made her aware of some of the challenges that other volunteers may also encounter. Volunteering at Free Geek has allowed Nina to see its strengths, weaknesses and areas of improvement that would be valuable in improving the quality of the volunteer experience.

Volunteer Representative Candidates

The profiles below highlight volunteers that would like to be the Volunteer Representative on Free Geek's Board of Directors. The candidates provided the information below.

Tara Nelson

Tara started volunteering in January 2011. (approx. 20 months) Since completing the Build program she has volunteered as a Build Instructor since October 2011.

She has done her best to pay attention to the needs and goals of the Free Geek staff and volunteers with whom she works and would like a forum for articulating her observations and suggestions. She finds the unique organizational structure of Free Geek incredibly intriguing and would like to learn more about its intended function and merits and compare that with its perceived implementation. Tara thinks the balance between intention and real-life application is an on-going and crucial aspect of Free Geek's ability to reach its goals and realize its mission.

While Tara is very interested in exploring the organizational structure of Free Geek and better understanding its decision-making process, she would also like to see attention given to youth and women's opportunities. Free Geek provides an excellent resource not just for accessing technology, but for learning to understand it.

In the next two years, Tara expects Free Geek will continue to grow, but its core objectives will remain the same. She hopes we have a greater outreach program for youth and women and perhaps a larger presence in the community outside the walls of the building.

Tara is connected with both volunteers and staff and has worked within both non-profit and corporate environments. She has learned how to effectively listen to the ideas of others and translate their words into actions. Tara is patient and thoughtful with a great respect for what Free Geek does. She appreciates the opportunities she has received and her enthusiasm would make her a valuable addition to the Board.

Nina Amin

Nina has been a volunteer at Free Geek since June of this year. She has been volunteering consistently ever since, working in Adoption, Build and Post-Build programs. Most recently, Nina can be found in Laptops.

Nina has a genuine interest in Free Geek, its mission, and the people who work and volunteer here and admires how it encourages curiosity and makes students and teachers out of everyone. She feels that being on the Board of Directors as Volunteer Representative would allow her to contribute ideas and concerns on behalf of volunteers. Nina would be honored to be able to represent all of the awesome volunteers who make it possible for Free Geek to exist. She is especially interested in Free Geek's education policy. She thinks it's great that Free Geek offers free classes to the community and would love to see Free Geek expand to offer more advanced computer science classes.

In two years, Nina sees Free Geek on Mars, being run by humanoids, receiving and dispersing donations of higher technology. Seriously, she thinks it's possible. Other than that, she sees Free Geek growing as an organization by continuing to