

Frequently Asked Questions

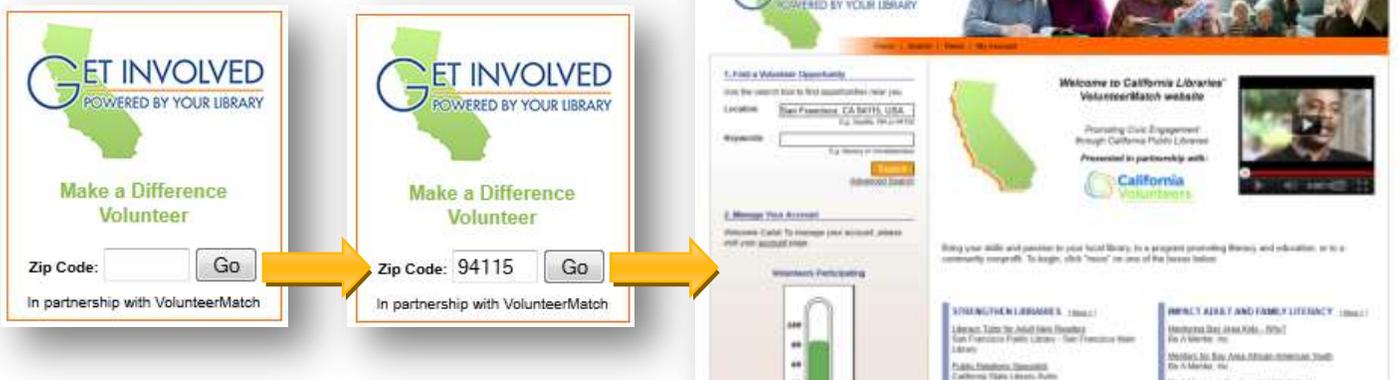
What is the Get Involved Widget All About?

What is the widget?

The widget is a box you can put on your website to encourage your library patrons to volunteer with your library or to get involved with other community organizations. It's a simple way to help your library serve as a resource in the community!

How does the widget work?

It's simple! You type in your zip code and it takes you to the California Libraries Hub site, showing you local library, literacy and community opportunities.



Why should I use the widget?

Here are the three main reasons this widget can help you:

1. **Serve as a community "hub".** The widget is a great way to help your patrons get involved in the community. It will drive them to volunteer at your library, but also at other organizations in their community, making your library the vehicle that connects volunteers into the community. What an easy way to provide a great service!
2. **Increase your referral rates.** During a recent survey, we got the following comment from a library director actively participating in our project:

"We've been using VolunteerMatch for a little over a year and we only just put the Get Involved widget on our website a month ago. We've had more referrals since it went up less than 30 days ago than we had in the full 12 months before combined."

3. **Increase your volunteer program's visibility.** Having the widget on your city, county or library website increases the visibility of your volunteer program. For those library patrons who may have not thought about volunteering with their library, it's a great way to let them know that there are opportunities out there.

Where should the widget go?

Install the widget in as many pages as it makes sense. Some great examples are your library homepage, your library's volunteer page if you have one, your city or county's government webpage and your literacy program's webpage.

Here are some examples to help you visualize it:



How do I get the widget installed?

It's simple. Here's what you do:

1. **Get the code.** Email clehn@library.ca.gov or californialibraries_support@volunteermatch.org and we will send you a snippet of HTML code.
2. **Get approval to put the widget into your webpages.** Every organization has a different process for this, so find out what process you need to go through to get the widget approved. To help them with the decision, show them the examples above of where it's posted on other California library websites.
3. **Give the code to your web team.** They'll know what to do with it. It's easy – they take the HTML and insert it into the web code, and voila! it's up!

What else do I need to know?

If you don't have a space on your website for the widget, think about creating a blog for your volunteer updates where you can add the widget. There are great free services for this, including <http://wordpress.com/> and <https://www.tumblr.com/>.

If you need any support, or if your web team has any questions, feel free to reach out to us – we're here to help! You can reach us by email at californialibraries_support@volunteermatch.org.