



SENIOR GLEANERS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY
For more information:
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For immediate release

**SENIORS SEEK HELP TO HARVEST
FRUIT FOR HUNGRY SAN DIEGANS**
Volunteers needed as prime citrus harvest nears

Senior Gleaners of San Diego County, a volunteer organization with a mission to address community hunger, is looking for senior volunteers to pick surplus fruit in preparation for the upcoming peak citrus harvest season.

“Early each year, we get more requests for picking citrus trees than our crews of seniors can handle,” said Margaret Burton, Senior Gleaners board president. “We need help to get the food to hungry families before it falls off the trees or gets put into the garbage,” she said.

Burton listed several reasons that volunteers ages 55 and over have joined the group, such as spending time outdoors, making new friends, keeping active, preventing food waste and giving back to their community.

The group also needs people who can haul several filled banana boxes of fruit in their own vehicle. Most deliveries are within 10 miles of the picking site.

Most gleaners volunteer 3-4 hours one day per week, but there are no required minimum commitments. Volunteers join crews working near where they live. Some volunteers form small groups that work independently and set their own schedule.

To learn more about the group and to register as a volunteer, visit:
www.seniorgleanerssdco.org or call 619-633-9180.

About Senior Gleaners of San Diego County

Since 1994, Senior Gleaners volunteers have gleaned tons of food annually throughout the county. Besides gleaning produce, the group collects unsold products donated by grocers. All the food is provided at no cost to the San Diego Food Bank, Feeding San Diego, churches, food pantries and similar organizations. In 2021, despite the limitations of the pandemic, the group collected more than 180,000 pounds of food that otherwise would have been wasted—and is on track to exceed that amount this year.

For use in calendar/announcement notices:

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Volunteers needed as prime citrus harvest nears

A group of seniors picking surplus fruit throughout the county needs help now to prepare for the upcoming peak harvest of citrus. Senior Gleaners of San Diego County also needs people who can haul several filled banana boxes of fruit in their own vehicle. Most volunteers (ages 55+) work for 3-4 hours one day per week working with a crew near their homes. To learn more about the group and to register as a volunteer, visit:

www.seniorgleanerssdco.org or call 619-633-9180.