

This is Tiffany Armstrong from the Northern California Community Blood Bank with a community comment.

Chances are, you have seen a Bloodmobile out in our community. The Northern California Community Blood Bank relies heavily on our Bloodmobiles to help supply almost three-quarters of our blood supply! We have three bloodmobiles that cover blood collections in Humboldt and Del Norte counties. The bloodmobiles are entirely self-contained so we can perform the entire blood donation process anywhere we go!

Our largest mobile is a Bluebird bus, the one with the pretty murals on the sides. It has two screening booths and five donor lounges, so it can handle the most donors. You will commonly see it at some of our busier drives for this reason. In the middle is our Chevy Turtletop. It has two screening booths as well, and four donor lounges. Our smallest bloodmobile is a Ford Turtletop, with one screening booth and three donor lounges. This mobile is easy to maneuver in tight spots, so it goes places the larger mobiles don't fit. Although it is small, we make the most of it—you will commonly find it at HSU near the Depot where we see as many as 30 donors on a busy day!

The bloodmobiles are set up to facilitate all aspects of the donation process. There is an area for registration, private screening areas, a blood collection area, and refreshment area on each mobile. Donors can expect the donation process on the mobiles to be pretty similar to donating at the Blood Bank. Just like at the Blood Bank, the bloodmobiles use a paperless system for the donation process. Donors answer the health history questionnaire on a tablet, and all of the information related to the donation is entered live into our computer system.

The bloodmobiles make it possible for us to reach donors in outlying communities. We frequently visit Crescent City and travel as far south as Garberville, and everywhere in between! We also travel east to Willow Creek and Hoopa. You can find a bloodmobile out somewhere Monday through Friday, and occasionally on Saturdays. Local businesses, clubs, and organizations can sign up to sponsor a blood drive in their communities by contacting one of our donor recruiters.

Mobile blood collections help us reach the donors who supply a large portion of our blood supply. We could not meet our blood supply needs without them!

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