



Nature Programs Volunteer

Position Description

Purpose of Volunteer Service: To present basic concepts of ecology and natural history to school and general public using hands-on activities and interpretive techniques.

Supervisors: Naturalist, Volunteer Coordinator

Typical Assignment: Lead students on interpretive hikes through the Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve (and occasionally other Kane County forest preserves) for various lengths of time and assist the Naturalist in a variety of projects necessary for the operation of the education programs.

Qualifications/Skills:

- Enjoy working with children in group settings. (Ages may vary.)
- Willingness to learn, share information, conduct activities and communicate to students of different ages and backgrounds.
- Flexibility and ability to adapt to changing weather, schedules and interest levels.
- Ability to work as a team with teachers, staff and fellow volunteers.
- Physical ability to walk trails, teach in outdoor/indoor locations and supervise students for various lengths of time.
- Ability to assume a leadership role.
- Willingness to participate in our check out procedure before leading groups and participate in our evaluation process.



Expectations:

- Commit to a minimum of 8 hours per month or one program per week during the busy seasons (spring/fall) and/or during the summer months (June/July) for our summer camps.
- Sign in upon arrival and sign out before departure.
- Arrive ½ hour before program begins to discuss plans for the program, prepare materials, and meet group.
- Notify staff promptly if you are unable to meet a scheduled commitment and help to find a substitute.
- Participate in our check out process before leading groups and participate in our evaluation process.
- Return materials after programs and notify staff of needed replacements.
- Represent the Forest Preserve District of Kane County in a warm and professional manner.
- Provide ideas and suggestions for improvement of the Volunteer Program and/or your volunteer position.

Training:

Volunteers are required to attend the *Orientation to the District and Kane County* and to observe hikes given by District naturalists and/or other volunteers. Additional educational classes are listed in the quarterly newsletter, *The Tree Line*, which can be viewed online at <http://www.kaneforest.com/publications/treeLine.pdf> . Continuing education sessions specifically for volunteers are offered throughout the year as time permits.