



Apprentice Steward Volunteer

Position Description

Purpose of Volunteer Service: To learn the multi-faceted efforts of restoring, protecting and perpetuating native ecosystems consistent with District's natural areas management program. To share knowledge with other volunteers, staff and the public. To achieve the status of full volunteer steward.

Supervision: Site Steward, Restoration Ecologist, Volunteer Coordinator

Typical Assignment: To cut brush, build burn piles, pull herbaceous weeds, harvest seed and perform other tasks during restoration workdays. Work closely with a Steward with the goal of becoming a steward.

Qualifications/ Skills:

- Must be at least 18 years old.
- Willingness to learn skills necessary to assume a leadership role.
- Willingness to learn to identify plant species and ecological communities.
- Ability to gain an understanding of restoration practices.
- Flexibility and ability to adapt to changing weather conditions and schedules.
- Ability to work with and take direction from other stewards and the staff.
- Willingness to strive to obtain full Steward status within one to three years.



Expectations:

- Attend 12 monthly workdays and work closely with a Steward to learn critical plant species, vegetation management techniques and gain practical restoration experience.
- Work within the District's natural areas management program guidelines.
- Gain knowledge and decision making skills necessary to achieve management objectives.
- Become proficient at performing all workday functions to be carried out by workday volunteers.
- Learn how to supervise volunteer crews effectively in workday activities with concern for volunteer's and public's safety, as well as protection of the resource.
- Obtain an herbicide license and learn about the herbicides used by the District.
- Attend the District's Annual Steward Meeting and related land management workshops.
- Submit hours each month to the Volunteer Coordinator.
- Maintain contact with the District's Volunteer Coordinator regarding concerns or issues.
- Learn how to interpret the District's natural areas restoration program to the public during workdays.
- 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 will receive hands-on training from a Mentor Steward for one to three years. 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.