

Montgomery County Parks Department
9500 Brunett Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20901
Phone (301) 495-2504

VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: BLUEBIRD MONITOR
LOCATION: Various park locations/assignment based out of nearest Nature Center
TIME: Volunteers may work weekdays/weekends, day/evening during park hours.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Bluebird Monitors are given a designated site within one of the Montgomery County Parks Department's local or regional parks to monitor Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) nesting boxes. Bluebird Monitors keep track of bluebird eggs, nestlings, and nesting activity by looking inside the bluebird boxes at least once a week. All house sparrow nests are removed. Information is recorded on bluebirds and actions taken by the monitor on data sheets. Nest boxes are monitored from March thru September. Bluebird Monitors take pride in their role as representatives of the Montgomery County Department of Parks.

The supervising park naturalist provides initial training at the assigned park so that monitors know where bluebird boxes are located, how to identify different types of bird nests and how to monitor activity within the nest box. The supervising park naturalist is in regular communication with the volunteer via phone, email or in person to answer questions or concerns. All bluebird data is submitted by the supervising park naturalist to the North American Bluebird Society.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Monitor Eastern Bluebird nest boxes in an assigned park at least once a week during season.
2. Keep track of nesting activity, eggs, and nestlings. Record data and any actions taken.
3. Must be willing to remove house sparrow nests, eggs or nestlings.
4. Must be willing to prick house wren eggs with a pin.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Ability to work independently.
2. Ability to follow instructions with accuracy and attention to detail.
3. Ability to hike to bluebird box locations in the monitor's assigned park.
4. Ability to record data on data sheets provided by supervising park naturalist and submits data to the supervising naturalist by the due date at the end of the nesting season.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Minimum age: 18 years (when working independently) or family groups.
2. References required.
3. Background check/fingerprinting possible.
4. Ability to commit to a pre-arranged schedule.
5. Staff shirt/ hat, and nametag required (provided by nature facility).

AUTHORITY:

Use of park equipment, facilities, and materials on an as needed basis.
Authorization to remove or destroy nuisance species.

TRAINING:

Successful completion of Nature Center Volunteer Orientation e-Learning course. Specific job training provided by the Naturalist Staff.

COMMENTS:

This can be a rewarding opportunity to learn about Eastern Bluebirds and provide a valuable service while helping to protect bluebird populations. Approved for Family Volunteering.

BENEFITS:

Volunteers at Montgomery County Nature Facilities receive many benefits, including program discounts, volunteer appreciation events, hands on educational opportunities and more. Please see our benefits flyer for a complete list.