

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

VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: VOLUNTEER NATURALIST
LOCATION: Brookside, Locust Grove & Meadowside Nature Centers and Black Hills Visitor Center
TIME: Positions are available weekdays and weekends, during both the day and evening

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Montgomery County Nature Facilities provide a variety of natural and cultural history programs for the public and maintain an active exhibit area, grounds, and trails. Volunteer Naturalists lead, or assist with public programs sponsored by Montgomery County Nature Facilities. Volunteer Naturalists are people-oriented and enjoy learning about nature and cultural history and sharing that with others.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Learn about the program offerings, content, resources and structured interpretation.
2. Conduct, or assist during, natural and cultural history programs.
3. Plan and prepare programs. Set up for and clean up after programs.
4. Greet the public and answer inquiries.
5. Research information on natural and cultural resources or topics.
6. Staff information booths at community events. Conduct birthday parties.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Solid communication skills, good command of the English language (other language proficiencies welcome).
2. Desire to learn Nature Center programs and resources, and to share knowledge with the public.
3. Willingness to work on site or travel to nearby off-site program locations.
4. Ability to follow directions with accuracy and with attention to detail.
5. Ability to work independently.
6. Ability to work with a diverse clientele.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Minimum age: 18 years old.
2. References required.
3. Fingerprint Background Check required.
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 material as needed. Some volunteers may be authorized to drive a Commission vehicle after required training and approval.

TRAINING:

Successful completion of Nature Center Volunteer Orientation e-Learning course. Specialized training in natural and cultural history and interpretation is provided by the Naturalist Staff. On the job training provided by the Naturalist Staff.

COMMENTS:

This can be a rewarding opportunity to interpret nature to the public, enhance your interpretive skills, gain experience and expand your professional network. Volunteers provide a valuable resource for staff and the public while they learn about natural and cultural history, and environmental education.

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.