

Interpretive Naturalist - Volunteer Position Description

Purpose

Volunteer Naturalists lead or assist with nature walks, birding and other wildlife viewing programs at Agua Caliente Park, Tucson Mountain Park, Cienega Creek Natural Preserve, Historic Canoa Ranch, Colossal Cave Mountain Park, Brandi Fenton Memorial Park, and other locations in Pima County. Volunteer Naturalists share their knowledge of Sonoran Desert ecology with park visitors during guided birding walks, thematic nature walks and hikes, and informal interpretive stations.

Requirements

1. Complete and submit NRPR Volunteer Application form
2. Participate in Volunteer Orientation meeting to discuss volunteer service and complete required paperwork.
3. Choose an area(s) of service and commit to approximately 8 hours per month for at least one year.
4. Complete training required for specific volunteer position.
5. Review and sign volunteer service agreement specific to the volunteer position.
6. Wear a volunteer badge, dress appropriately, and represent Pima County in a positive and professional manner.
7. Record your hours for each day worked and attendance at trainings, meetings and continuing education sessions.
8. Volunteers are encouraged to participate in continuing education sessions, trainings, volunteer meetings, and/or field trips.

Training

Volunteer Naturalists must complete the Naturalist Training Course (approx. 9 hours), and/or informal training provided by NRPR staff. Successful Naturalist Volunteers will demonstrate general knowledge of the plants and animals of the Sonoran desert and/or relevant experience as birding guide or interpretive naturalist, and competent interpretive skills.

Time Commitment and Scheduling

Volunteer Naturalists must commit to an average of 8-hours per month. It is expected that Volunteer Naturalists will lead or assist with a minimum of two thematic tours each month during the months of October - April. All volunteers are encouraged to attend continuing education talks, classes and outings arranged by the volunteer coordinator. Volunteer Naturalists scheduling is coordinated by EE staff as designated.

Benefits of Volunteering with NRPR

1. Contribute to your community and enrich the lives of others through volunteer service.
2. Further the mission of Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation.
3. Receive an in-depth learning experience in the volunteer training course.
4. Learn about the natural and cultural history of the area through volunteer meetings and field trips.
5. Meet and socialize with other like-minded individuals through your participation in the volunteer program.

6. Receive Volunteer newsletters and notifications of Volunteer events and opportunities.
7. Receive discounts on NRPR Outdoor Activities, Tours, and Events program registration fees.
8. Enjoy NRPR Volunteer recognition events specific to your area of volunteer service.