

EYNC Volunteer Opportunities

To volunteer is to learn; join a volunteer team at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and learn first hand the beauty and diversity of nature. Over 290 volunteers keep our Center going. Ranging in age from 14 to 90, they are animal caretakers, nature tour guides, receptionists and landscape assistants, to name a few. Contact Jamie Washington, Volunteer Coordinator, jwashington@sacparks.org or (916) 489-4918 x224 to find out more about the volunteer program and where you fit in.

Animal Care Assistant: The Nature Center has a small collection of wild animals that need devoted care from our staff and volunteers. Some of these animals have been injured and require special handling. Scientific understanding is not as important as consistent, reliable performance.

Responsibilities: Clean animal cages; feed and exercise animals; assist with animals during visitor hours; maintain animal care records. Nature Center Staff provides on-the-job training and supervision.

Clerical Assistant: Assists with the Center's daily operations by performing a variety of clerical jobs.

Responsibilities: Schedules time with the Volunteer Coordinator to file, photocopy, laminate, help with mailings, and other general clerical duties. This position allows the volunteer to learn about most programs at the Center. Nature Center Staff provides on-the-job training and supervision.

Computer Assistant: To assist with the maintenance of Center records through the use of computer-based record keeping and word processing systems.

Responsibilities: Enter information using database, word processing, and/or desktop publishing software. Tasks may include updating library and collections records and typing reports, designing fliers and maintaining databases. Nature Center Staff provides on-the-job training and supervision.

Nature Tour Docent: As the Sacramento region is rapidly becoming developed, the Nature Center is one of the few places children have "hands-on" experience with nature and are introduced to the beauty and diversity of natural areas. Children learn to realize the importance of conserving and preserving our natural resources before they become decision-making adults. Tour docents have the opportunity to share their love and knowledge of nature with some of the hundreds of children that visit EYNC each week.

Responsibilities: Assists in the presentation of elementary school tours. Tours comply with the California State Science Framework. Nature Center staff believes that children learn by doing; all tours include use of animals and a nature hike. Docents introduce the live animal to the children and lead up to 18 children and parent volunteers on the nature trail. Nature Center Staff provides on-the-job training and supervision.

Landscape Maintenance Assistant: The landscape area provides an opportunity for the visitors to familiarize themselves with native plants as they stroll along the path to the Nature Center entrance. The Nature Area is left wild except for trail and fire sprinkler maintenance, pond restoration work and non-native plant removal.

Responsibilities: Landscape Maintenance Assistants help with the care, maintenance and planning of the replica Maidu Village and Nature Study areas. This includes weeding, watering, mulching, digging, planting, pruning, disease control, pest control, and much more! They participate in monthly “Habitat Improvement” workdays, occasional maintenance and restoration projects. As part of the landscape crew you will have the opportunity to be part of a team, meet new people and learn about native plants. Nature Center Staff provides on-the-job training and supervision.

Living History Program Assistant: The primary goal of this program is to develop a child's understanding and appreciation of our agricultural history through hands-on learning activities at Gibson Ranch County Park in Elverta, CA.

Responsibilities: Prepare materials and teach basic farming activities such as gardening, woodworking, sewing, candle making, wheat preparation and baking. Assist naturalists with preparation of materials for classes and gardening. May assist naturalists with the various needs of the Parent/Teacher Workshop. Nature Center Staff provides on-the-job training and supervision.

Maidu Village Worker: The Maidu Demonstration Area includes Native American structures, which serve as the setting for cultural demonstrations and day-long cultural heritage programs. Programs for school children and other organized groups are the main focus of the demonstration area; however, it is also used for public programs, teacher workshops and special events. Periodic refurbishing of the area is necessary to maintain its appearance and ensure the educational quality of the program.

Responsibilities: Off site gathering of tule, soapstone, acorns and other natural materials for use in the Field Day Program. Prepare program materials and help with the various needs of the Parent/Teacher Workshop and the Maidu Field Day. Assist with maintenance of Maidu Village structures. Nature Center Staff provides on-the-job training and supervision.

Receptionist: Greets visitors and answers the phone. Since the receptionist is often the first and/or only person with whom a visitor or caller will speak it is very important for the receptionist to project a welcoming and professional manner.

Responsibilities: Greet the public, answer questions, stock sales items and brochures, keep shelves clean and orderly, operate the cash register, answer the telephones, make program reservations, monitor the donation box, and record visitor statistics at the end of the day. Nature Center Staff provides on-the-job training and supervision.

School Vacation Program Assistant: Provides positive nature experiences for young children on vacation from school. Helps them build positive attitudes about nature.

Responsibilities: Help leader facilitate group discipline, arts and crafts, nature walks, and other activities. Assist leader with set-up and clean-up. Model safety and behavior rules for program participants. Be responsible for property, tools, and equipment belonging to EYNC. Nature Center Staff provides on-the-job training and supervision.