

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM: KLINE CREEK FARM

POSITION TITLE: Apprentice Interpreter (Summer Teen Program)
COMMITMENT: Flexible (8 hrs/wk for 10 weeks)
LOCATION: Kline Creek Farm, West Chicago IL
APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 1
MINIMUM AGE: 13-18



DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE POSITION

This volunteer position is offered to teens 13-18 years old with a time commitment of 8 hours a week for 10 weeks beginning in June and ending in August. Shifts are available Monday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:30-4:30. Additional volunteer opportunities may be available throughout the year for special events.

The Apprentice Interpreter's program is an opportunity for enthusiastic individuals to contribute to the success of Kline Creek Farm's educational mission and gain valuable job, interpersonal, and presentation skills. We value their experiences, goals, and point of view and work together as a team to bring energy to the farm. These volunteers focus on interpretive work in teams. They wear historical costumes. Their workdays include leading scripted farm tours, gardening, setting up and staffing activity stations, and demonstrating historical activities and pastimes. During their apprenticeship, teen volunteers will learn and build interpretive technique, use hands-on activity stations to engage casual visitors, write a personalized scripted tour of the farm, assist with agricultural work, support Farmhands day camp, tend the kitchen garden and document their experiences. Direction and training is received from staff.

PRIMARY VOLUNTEER DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED

- Assist staff with the presentation of education programs and greeting facility visitors.
- Interpret site activities and answer questions from the public.
- Provide informational tours to visitors.
- Maintain the historical kitchen garden using period appropriate techniques.
- Maintain the appearance of the facility.
- Assist with special events related to Kline Creek Farm and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Required knowledge is provided at mandatory trainings and orientations. Additional skills needed are: ability to interact positively with the public and staff, effective communication skills, ability to interpret and apply written and verbal instructions, willingness to learn from staff and accept feedback.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by a volunteer to successfully perform the duties of the volunteer position.

While volunteering, the volunteer is regularly required to stand; walk; use hands to feel, finger or handle; reach with hands and arms; talk or hear. The volunteer is frequently required to climb, balance or stoop; kneel, crouch or crawl. The volunteer is occasionally required to sit. Specific vision abilities required by this position include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception and ability to adjust focus.

VOLUNTEER ENVIRONMENT

The volunteer environment characteristics described here are representative of those a volunteer encounters while performing the duties of the volunteer position.

The volunteer is regularly exposed to outside weather conditions. The volunteer is regularly exposed to uneven and rough terrain. The volunteer is frequently exposed to wet and/or humid conditions. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate. The volunteer occasionally performs duties in dim or low light.

PROVISIONS

This is an unpaid volunteer position, which exists to assist staff and to provide supplemental support for the District's programs. This position is undertaken freely on the part of the volunteer with no payment or expectation of payment of salaries, wages, compensation or other types of benefits. The District may from time to time alter or terminate volunteer positions and programs. Volunteer status may be changed or discontinued by the District at any time and for any reason, including a volunteer's failure to comply with District ordinances, policies and direction governing conduct in the performance of volunteer duties in the field or on District premises.

PURPOSE

The purpose of Volunteer Services Program at the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is to engage volunteers who are willing to donate their time, talents and resources to support the programs and staff in carrying out the mission, purpose, and guiding principles of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and the volunteer programs.

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY MISSION

As mandated by the Illinois Downstate Forest Preserve Act, our mission is "to acquire and hold lands containing forests, prairies, wetlands, and associated plant communities or lands capable of being restored to such natural conditions for the purpose of protecting and preserving the flora, fauna and scenic beauty for the education, pleasure and recreation of its citizens."

PURPOSE

To acquire, preserve, protect and restore the natural resources in DuPage County while providing opportunities for people to connect with nature.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Stewardship, Sustainability, Community Engagement, Innovation, Empowerment, and Diversity & Inclusion. Visit dupageforest.org to learn more.

For more information contact the Volunteer Services Department at (630) 933-7233 M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.