

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

NATURAL RESOURCES



POSITION TITLE:

Bird Monitor

COMMITMENT:

Year-round (20 hours/year)

LOCATION:

Districtwide-Assigned route

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

March 1

MINIMUM AGE:

18

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE POSITION

This position involves assisting staff with the assessment and inventory of populations of birds in the District owned natural areas, recording and turning in data in a timely manner and recording volunteer hours. Duties may vary at the discretion of the District staff. The volunteer will sometimes interact with the public and respond to questions and requests for information. Direction and training is received from staff.

PRIMARY VOLUNTEER DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED

- Assists staff with the assessment and inventory of populations of birds.
- Performs Northeastern Illinois bird identification by sight or call.
- Performs point-counts and related documentation including survey sheets and confidential reports. Point-count surveys are conducted once per week during the breeding season (early June to mid-July). Surveys must be completed between sunrise and 9:00 a.m. under good weather conditions. Volunteers that express interest may also conduct year-round preserve inventories and/or assist with the MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) program at Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve, Breeding Bird Atlas Survey, or other special projects.
- Attends and acquires pertinent information from District workshops, meetings or training sessions.
- Acknowledges all verbal and written updates from NR staff and Stewardship Program Coordinator.
- Accurately completes required District forms and turns in data by June 30 and July 31.
- Records accurate volunteer hours monthly on Volgistics for the government accounting standards report.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Required knowledge is provided at mandatory trainings and orientations to include record keeping and point-count trainings. 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.

- Three years of experience with field identification of birds or equivalent skills.
- At least 18 years old.
- Complete District volunteer application packet, including waiver and consent for criminal background check.

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.

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, and crouch. 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. There may be uneven or rough terrain. The volunteer is occasionally exposed to fumes or airborne particles, including allergens. The volunteer is occasionally exposed to wet and/or humid conditions. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate. The volunteer may perform 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.