



Volunteer Naturalist Position Description 2012

Title: Volunteer Naturalist

Major Objective: To lead enjoyable, educational programs for visitors of all ages at the Wells Reserve at Laudholm.
www.wellsreserve.org

Responsibilities:

1. Attend volunteer naturalist trainings to learn program content
2. Be the lead tour guide for programs that adhere to Wells Reserve education standards; tours are led outside on the trails, are an average size of 10 people, and last 2-3 hours
3. Assist with other education projects and events when possible

Qualifications:

1. Positive and friendly attitude
2. Dedication to the Wells Reserve mission: *"The Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve works to expand knowledge about coasts and estuaries, engage people in environmental learning, and involve communities in conserving natural resources, all with a goal of protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems around the Gulf of Maine."*
3. Ability to walk on trails with easy terrain for 3 hours in changing weather
4. Ability to safely lead a group on trails while delivering an educational program
5. Access to outdoor gear for use in leading programs, e.g. rain coat, rain boots, etc.
6. Maintenance of clean appearance and courteous habits when dealing with the public
7. A clean record for working with children and the public
8. Minimum of 18 years of age
9. Good listening and speaking skills are a plus, but trainings are offered on this topic
10. CPR and First Aid certifications are a plus

Training

1. Apply and interview with the Volunteer Coordinator
2. Attend orientation, skills sessions, program training sessions, field trips, and potlucks
3. Shadow programs 1-2 times, then co-lead programs 1-2 times before leading solo
4. Be evaluated by staff in order to compliment and enhance program performance

Time and Place

1. Trainings occur in early spring, early summer, and early fall
2. Programs occur year round and are generally scheduled in the morning on weekdays
3. All trainings and programs are held at the Wells Reserve in Wells, Maine

Commitment

1. Minimum of 10 programs a year

Supervision

1. Direct supervision and support from the Wells Reserve staff

Benefits

1. Enjoy being outside on 7 miles of trails at the site of an historic salt-water farm
2. Learn about local wildlife and the importance of estuaries, where rivers meet the sea
3. Learn how to lead groups outdoors
4. Be a part of a great community of staff, volunteers, and members
5. Support the mission and maintenance of a national treasure