

Frequently Asked Questions about the Volunteer Program

The Campbell Creek Science Center could not operate without the generosity of our dedicated volunteers. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions we receive about our volunteer program. If you don't find the answers to your questions here, be sure to call us at 267-1247 to discuss our volunteer program.



What volunteer opportunities are there?

Our volunteers help us in many ways:



- **Educational Program Volunteers** serve as instructors for the Science Center's many educational programs and help create and maintain the props and areas used for educational activities.
- **Parent Chaperones** accompany children on educational programs, helping ensure the safety of all students throughout the day.
- **Backyard Discoveries Program Volunteers** assist with the annual butterfly count, semiannual creek bioassessments, and other inventories as well as conduct weed pulls, plant and maintain gardens, and develop and maintain the Center's natural collections (insects, plants, fungi, and lichens).
- **Administrative Volunteers** help keep the Science Center organized by taking reservation, responding to visitor questions, maintaining the library, and to answering the phones.
- **Special Events Volunteers** assist with trail work and other projects at Scoop the Poop Day, National Trails Day, and National Public Lands Day.
- **Boy and Girl Scouts** have helped with many different projects, including adopting and maintaining trailheads; planting gardens; revegetating areas; installing steps, interpretive displays, and sign posts; and stabilizing trail approaches to pedestrian bridges. Many scouts have completed projects on Campbell Tract to help fulfill Eagle Scout requirements, scout badge requirements, or to attain Bronze Awards.
- **Friends Group members** serve on the Friends Board, promote Science Center programs, work with community groups and individuals to acquire donations, write thank you letters, and manage the affairs of this nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.



Who can volunteer?

Individuals, groups, and scouts may all work on volunteer projects at the Science Center.



How old do you have to be to volunteer?

For our special work events, such as National Public Lands Day and National Trails Day, most anyone can volunteer. However, everyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent *or* be part of a designated group that pre-registers under a Group Volunteer Services Agreement that includes parental permission slips. Groups that work on special projects, such as gardening, revegetation, or trail maintenance, may also in-



clude minors as long as a Group Volunteer Services Agreement is coordinated in advance.

It is also possible for minors ages 14 through 17 to hold volunteer positions at the Science Center. However, because these volunteers require more direct adult supervision, such volunteer assignments are determined on a case-by-case basis. These individuals work under an Individual Volunteer Services Agreement that must be signed by a parent.

Can you volunteer if you are not a citizen of the United States?

No, unless the volunteer service is arranged through a third-party voluntary service organization, such as Volunteers for Peace. The only exceptions are for citizens of Canada and Mexico.

How long do volunteer assignments last?

Some volunteer projects last for just a few hours, such as work projects on National Public Lands Day and National Trails Day. Volunteers also work at the Science Center on projects that last for longer periods of time. These volunteers may work as education program instructors, assist with biological inventories, help with gardening projects, repair educational props, or work on many other projects.

What kind of paperwork is required?

All volunteers must complete a volunteer services agreement, which is then signed by a BLM official. Individuals complete an Individual Volunteer Services Agreement; groups complete a Group Volunteer Services Agreement. The agreement stipulates the work that the volunteer will perform, defines the time period over which they will work, and includes any special conditions that apply.

Do I need a background check?

Criminal background checks are required for all volunteer instructor positions and any that involve computer use or building access privileges. If a background check is required, all fees will be paid by BLM. No background check will be conducted on a minor volunteer without the consent of both the minor and a parent.

How much training will I receive?

Volunteers receive the same kind of training as employees do for a given task. Volunteers who assist with trail work and other projects at events such as National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day receive safety briefings and training related to the tools they'll be using for the projects they're working on. Other volunteer positions may require additional training, such as bear and moose safety, IT security, or first aid.



Will I be working with other people or by myself?

This will depend on the project. Most projects involve working with others, including work projects completed at National Public Lands Day and National Trails Day, assisting with the front desk, and being a volunteer instructor. Many other projects, especially projects conducted over several months, may involve a lot of independent work. In all cases, however, volunteers receive a volunteer project supervisor who monitors work and offers guidance and feedback.

Will I be working inside, outside, or both?

This will depend on the project. Volunteer projects may be entirely outside, entirely indoors, or require work both inside and outside.

Do you provide housing?

Unfortunately, we do not have any volunteer housing available.

Do you provide a food stipend?

During special work events, such as National Trails Day, pizza is usually offered to volunteers thanks to generous donations from local businesses. For longer-term volunteers who work more than four hours in a day, lunch expenses may be reimbursed as defined in the volunteer services agreement.

Can I get school credit for my service?

Many volunteers at the Science Center have earned credit for school and university at the Science Center. They have served as interns, conducted biological inventories, and been general office assistants. Students are responsible for ensuring that their work at the Center counts for school credit.

How do I sign up to volunteer?

If you are interested in volunteering on a special work event, such as National Public Lands Day, all you have to do is arrive between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. to sign up and be assigned to a particular work project. (Projects begin at 9:00 a.m.) For all other volunteer assignments, please contact the Science Center volunteer coordinator directly (267-1247) to discuss your interests and availability.

