



Effie Yeaw Nature Center

2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael, CA 95608 SacNatureCenter.net (916) 876-4918

Position Title: Docent

Reports to: Manager of Volunteer Programs and staff Naturalist for assigned program.

Mission: Interpret the natural and cultural resources of the Sacramento region—Principally in the lower American River Parkway.

Objective:

Docents connect visitors to nature and offer youth a “hands-on” experience to explore the beauty and diversity of natural areas. Docents impart the value of conservation and preservation of natural resources while offering enriching educational experiences to visitors of the museum, Maidu replica village, and Nature Study Area (approximately 100 acres).

Primary Responsibilities:

- Assist in the presentation of a site tour and educational program activities.
- Lead a group through the Discovery Room and/or the exhibits of the Museum.
- Assist or lead a visit with an animal ambassador of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.
- Lead a group on an educational and experiential walk through the Nature Study Area.

Secondary responsibilities:

- Handle and transport a live animal and interpret the animal ambassador for visitors.
- Lead Pop-Up Nature Table Programs and mentor aspiring naturalists.
- Provide educational assistance with a variety of programs, events, and outreach.

Skills/Qualifications needed:

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Strong interpersonal skills, good judgement, and ability to manage groups.
- Desired character traits: Reliable, flexible, and compassionate.
- Interest in animals and wildlife; no unreasonable fear of snakes, insects, or other animals.
- Interest in learning about natural history and our animal ambassadors.
- Physically fit, able to walk a minimum of 3 miles, and balance on uneven surfaces.
- Volunteers must be free from any arrest or conviction of any felony or misdemeanor offense involving violence, sexual or physical abuse of any adult or child, or any felony narcotic offense. Volunteers are required to submit to a background check process.

Training schedule, commitment, & requirements:

- A nominal fee of \$25 is required at the time of orientation.
- Safety Training and Orientation provided by Volunteer Manager.
- 6 week self-guided training program.
- Weekday availability a must, as programs are scheduled Monday-Friday.
- Post training, volunteer a minimum of 4 hours a month, for at least 9 months.

Evaluation: Volunteers are encouraged to meet with the Volunteer Manager whenever necessary to discuss situations which may arise on the job. Periodic evaluations will be used to determine if the volunteer's needs and those of the Nature Center are being met.

Benefits: Ongoing learning opportunities and connect w/ a team of dedicated naturalists.