

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM: **NATURAL RESOURCES**



POSITION TITLE: **Protect Your Waters Boating Monitor**
COMMITMENT: **Seasonal/ (May-October, 2+ hours/month)**
LOCATION: **Districtwide-Assigned sites**
APPLICATION DEADLINE: **March 1**
MINIMUM AGE: **18**

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE POSITION

This position involves assisting staff with identification and reporting of invasive species in the District owned natural areas while educating the public regarding invasive species and litter's effect on the habitats in District owned natural areas. Volunteer must record and turn in data in a timely manner and record volunteer hours. All Protect Your Waters boating volunteers must possess their own registered canoe, kayak, or small boat and personal floatation device. Due to waterway restrictions, there may be times when a District boat may be used with permission. The volunteer will sometimes interact with the public and respond to questions and requests for information. Duties may vary at the discretion of the District staff. Direction and training is provided by staff.

PRIMARY VOLUNTEER DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED

- Assists staff with identification and reporting of invasive species on assigned waterways on District properties.
- Performs invasive species identification by sight.
- Conducts plate monitoring for zebra mussels. Collects and identifies specimens.
- Monitors assigned site May through October.
- Performs data collection and related documentation including survey sheets and confidential reports.
- Removes litter from lakes, ponds and rivers. Observes preserve conditions, report hazards and concerns.
- Educates the preserve visitors regarding Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) awareness through conversation and educational materials.
- May be asked to assist staff at the Urban Stream Research Center (USRC) located within Blackwell Forest Preserve, Monday-Friday between 7:00 am and 3:30 pm with various tasks; i.e. tagging mussels, helping with monitor surveys, sorting invertebrates, small building projects (optional).
- Keeps general records utilizing written records, computer programs and e-mail correspondence.
- Accurately completes required District forms and turns in data in a timely manner.
- 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.
- Records accurate volunteer hours monthly on Volgistics for the government accounting standards report.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Safety guidelines must be followed by volunteers and will be communicated by staff. These may include volunteers wearing masks and gloves, social distancing, and assisting with sanitizing supplies and equipment. Additional safety guidelines may be added for the safety of volunteers, staff, and the public.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Required knowledge is provided at mandatory trainings and orientations to include information on zebra mussels and aquatic issues. 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.

- Interest in educating the preserve visitors regarding Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) awareness and the Cast No Trash program.
- At least 18 years old.
- Ability to use a boat or kayak and identify species of interest.
- Complete District volunteer application packet, including waiver form and consent for criminal background and DL license check.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The physical demands described here are representative of what we ask volunteers to perform if able.

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, sit, crouch or crawl. The volunteer must regularly lift and/or move up to 25 pounds and is occasionally required to lift and/or move up to 50 to 100 pounds. 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.