

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge



Volunteer Program

Environmental Educator

Purpose: To enhance student experience and knowledge through hands-on educational activities and programs designed to meet certain objectives or education standards.

Duties and responsibilities: Assist with or lead educational programs primarily for school groups. May also include educational workshops for adults. Some programs may be off site.

Examples of activities:

- Leading or assisting with a photography hike.
- Leading a journaling activity such as the “Tamarac Watch.”
- Assist with planting trees.
- Leading an active game such as “Every Tree for Itself.”
- Presenting a talk on beaver adaptations.
- Reading stories, presenting a puppet show.
- Leading a nature hike several times during the day with a designated theme.
- Leading a GPS activity



Qualifications:

- Ability to clearly understand the purpose of the refuge and its wildlife management programs as well as the National Wildlife Refuge System
- An enjoyment in working with people - especially children.
- Good interpersonal communication skills with the ability to present a positive image to the public and to articulate information in person.
- Ability to present programs and activities to large groups and feel comfortable doing it.
- Basic knowledge and understanding of nature, ecology, wildlife, plants, and birds or the ability to learn this information.
- Understanding of teaching and interpretive principles or willingness to learn.
- Ability to operate binoculars, digital cameras or willingness to learn.
- Physical ability to lead the activity (hiking, snowshoeing etc)
- Valid driver’s license.



Training:

- Volunteer Orientation
- Environmental education teaching techniques.
- Defensive driving if required to drive government vehicle.
- Training will be provided for specific activity. EE Workshops as available.

Time commitment: Will vary depending on event. ½ day – 2 days depending on event- not including prep time. Must be available in the spring, winter or fall during school field trip season.

Contact: Janice Bengtson at 218-847-2641 ext 16 or Janice_Bengtson@fws.gov