

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



Volunteer Program Contact: Janice_Bengtson@fws.gov or 218-844-1756



Wild Wednesday Leader

Purpose: To enhance a young child's visit to the refuge through a one hour hands-on nature exploration activity during the summer season.

Duties and responsibilities: To develop and lead a three part activity which includes a story, a hike and nature craft focused on a specific theme (plant, animal etc.) relevant to Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge and its mission of wildlife conservation.

Examples of activities:

- Using puppets to tell a story.
- Lead an insect safari using nets and bug jars on the trail.
- Lead children in song and use actions/dance to interpret an animal such as a bear or butterfly.
- Teaching children about the habitat and life cycle of bald eagles.
- Leading children in a track activity which includes hopping like a rabbit, waddling like a porcupine and walking like a deer.
- Teach children about birds and identify 3 birds and their songs.
- Have children create a bear puppet out of a paper bag, a showy lady slipper out of tissue paper, a paper cup, and pipe cleaner or a deer antler headband.

Qualifications:

- Ability to clearly understand the purpose of the refuge and its wildlife management programs as well as the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- Good interpersonal communication skills with the ability to present a positive image to the public and to articulate information in person.
- Passionate about helping young children connect with nature.
- Ability to prepare and present programs and activities to young children and their families and feel comfortable doing it.
- Basic knowledge and understanding of nature, ecology, wildlife, plants, and birds or the ability to learn this information.
- Basic understanding of early childhood development.
- Understanding of interpretive principles or the willingness to learn.
- Physical ability to lead the activity (short walks on uneven ground in warm weather)
- Background check may be required.

Training:

- Volunteer Orientation
- Wild Wednesday Orientation/Planning/ Training day
- Workshops as available
- Shadow seasoned volunteers, mentoring.

Time commitment: Will vary depending on need. One-two programs per month June- August. Set-up, presentation, tear down 3 hrs; plus 2 hours lesson prep. Many lesson plans are available in the WW binder. You may team up with another volunteer to co-lead. Wild Wednesday Assistants will be assigned as well.

