



Education Programs Volunteer

Severson Dells is seeking dedicated and experienced teachers and naturalists to assist us in fulfilling our mission through our education programs. Volunteers and students alike will benefit from this opportunity as they explore the forest and prairie, watch wildlife and learn to enjoy the wonders of nature. Education Program Volunteers assist two primary programs - School Programs and Science Saturdays.

School Programs Volunteers will be responsible for teaching and assisting lessons for visiting school groups participating in our onsite education programs, which serve approximately 4,000 students each year. Groups of students are between 10 and 20 students, ranging in age from Pre-K to 5th grade. Lessons can include, but are not limited to, pond and stream, watersheds, habitats and ecosystems, soil and geology, and animal adaptations. Volunteers may lead hikes and/or teach lessons in the nature center. School programs take place Monday through Friday from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and are concentrated in the spring and fall seasons, from April to June and September to the end of November.

Science Saturday programs occur on the last Saturday of the most months (excluding November and December) and run from 10am-2pm. Each month has a different natural history focus. Some examples include birds, wildflowers, nocturnal animals, monarchs, and mammals. Volunteers will lead themed hikes, lead activity tables and help with themed crafts for participants to take home.

Recommended Skills:

- Experience working with children, preferably in an outdoor settings
- Comfortable with the basic natural history of the area
- Background in biology, ecology, environmental studies, or education strongly encouraged, but not required
- Good communication skills
- Ability to work cooperatively with a team as well as individually
- Physically able to work outdoors on hilly terrain and hike for up to 2 hours at a time (hike volunteers only)

Additional Information:

- School Programs Volunteers are asked to commit to at least two days per month during the spring and/or fall season
- Science Saturday Volunteers are asked to commit to at least 2.5 hour shift for at least 6 of the 10 Science Saturdays
- Volunteers must submit to criminal background checks and child abuse clearances
- Volunteers will participate in a training program and shadow experienced education volunteers in the field
- Volunteers will be scheduled and supervised by the Education Specialist