



VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

MASTER NATURALIST

What's It about?

City of Fort Collins Master Naturalists care about natural areas and have a passion for sharing their enthusiasm with others. They welcome visitors to natural areas, provide programs (including school field trips) and share practical stewardship tips for these special places, while interacting with professionals and other volunteers with similar interests.

The training program is FREE and all materials are supplied. Master Naturalists learn:

- basic ecology about local natural areas;
- teaching techniques, public speaking and interpretation tips;
- the values and benefits that natural areas add to our lives;
- locations and secrets of little-known natural areas.

During the training, presentations by a variety of experts, field trips to natural areas, and techniques practice, provide naturalist trainees with the skills they need to lead fun, fact-filled, and meaningful field trips for all ages.

Your post-training education and outreach volunteer service may include leading nature walks and field trips, conducting education stations for school children, organizing and leading classroom activities or staffing booths at community events. These activities are scheduled well in advance. You will have the opportunity to sign up for those that fit your schedule and that interested you. The Natural Areas Program fully supports the Master Naturalists with lesson planning, equipment, and hand-outs, to make your program the best it can be!

Master Naturalists are an important and integral part of the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program, helping to promote our mission to make natural areas welcoming, enhance visitors' experiences and promote a sense of stewardship. Master Naturalists gain a rewarding volunteer experience while enjoying the City of Fort Collins natural areas.

Time Commitment: Mandatory training of approximately seventy hours, plus fifty hours of public presentations within two years.

Qualifications:

- Must be eighteen years or older.
- Must pass a background check.
- Have a background or strong interest in natural history and a feel a connection with nature.
- Be enthusiastic about leading education activities for elementary schoolchildren.
- Possess or be able to learn excellent communication skills.
- Enjoy public speaking and working with the public.
- Have a willingness to learn and a desire to share knowledge with others.

Requirements:

- Must have internet access.
- Must successfully complete the Master Naturalist Training Program, including attendance at training sessions, delivery of a ten-minute, peer-reviewed presentation, and one certification teaching program by the end of May.
- The training includes both classroom and field trip sessions. Field trips include hiking approximately 0.5-4.5 miles on paved and unpaved trails, sometimes on rocky ground. If you have physical limitations please contact us for accommodations.
- Present a minimum of two programs by the end of the calendar year and donate fifty hours within two years of training.
- Attend at least two qualified continuing education programs, field trips or workshops per year (these are sponsored/provided by the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program).
- Must regularly work with Natural Areas Program Volunteer Coordinator and report volunteer hours.

Benefits:

- Gain a valuable and rewarding volunteer experience.
- Make a difference in the community through education and interpretation.
- Interact with people with similar interests.
- Assist visitors in understanding and appreciating natural areas.
- Participate in fun volunteer recognition and social events.
- Be an integral part of a large well-respected and forward-thinking land conservation and stewardship program.
- Be truly valued by Natural Areas Program staff and managers.

Application Process

All applications must be completed via the website: fcgov.com/naturalareas/volunteers.php

Please be aware that there continues to be strong interest in this training and we often receive many more applications than can be accommodated. Applications are accepted based on public speaking experience, enthusiasm and volunteer availability. You are welcome to email a cover letter and resume to supplement the information in the formal application. We want you to have a rewarding volunteer experience with us while representing the Natural Areas Program in the community, so it's very important that we place volunteers in the appropriate positions. Therefore, the education staff will contact you by telephone for an interview before you are accepted into the program.

Application period is announced in late winter.

Information: Sue Kenney, Education and Outreach and Education Coordinator,
970-224-6118 or skenney@fcgov.com

naturally yours