



Job Title: Volunteer Ranger Assistant

Supervision: City Natural Areas and Trails Rangers and Larimer County Rangers

Summary of Position:

The VRA serves as a visible presence in City of Fort Collins natural areas and along trails to enhance the experience of the natural areas and trail users by providing information, site monitoring, and visitor assistance. The VRA works through the Ranger program to respond to questions and inquiries, monitor trails and natural areas for visitor safety and resource protection, assess timing and types of recreational uses, administer user surveys, and alert rangers to situations that require ranger attention. VRA 's will be given the option of hiking, biking, horseback riding, wheelchair use, or station at a trail head. VRAs stationed at a trail head will be charged with monitoring, greeting or answering visitor questions.

Duties:

- Provide a visible presence along trails and in natural areas.
- Focus patrol efforts on most actively visited natural areas during high use periods.
- Respond to visitor questions and issues consistent with training received.
- Record and report visitor comments, recreational trends and safety issues to ranger staff.
- Complete and submit a patrol log following each assignment.
- Assist rangers at special events and on special patrols when needed.
- Initiate contact with natural areas visitors on issues related to multi-use conflict, safety and natural areas regulations.

Requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years old and possess strong interpersonal skills.
- Must be willing to sign a volunteer agreement, liability waiver and commit at least 20 hours of volunteer service in a calendar year.
- Candidates must successfully complete a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer training.
- Must wear the VRA uniform at all times while performing volunteer duties.

- Enjoy working in the outdoors under a variety of weather and trail conditions.
- Be capable of working independently with little or no supervision while on patrol.
- Must share a commitment to the mission and goals of Natural Areas Program and be able to communicate that mission to the public.
- Must abide by natural area rules and regulations as well as established volunteer policies and procedures as outlined in the VRA training manual.
- Must possess the skill and ability to safely patrol the natural areas by their choice of means. This includes trailhead hosting, hiking, biking, and horseback riding.
- Volunteers must provide their own transportation, non-uniform outdoor clothing, and gear.

Time Commitment

- Complete 20 hours of volunteer patrol during a calendar year.
- The need for the VRA is highest between May and October on weekday evenings and weekends.
- Assist Natural Areas Rangers with at least one special event or patrol a year.

Benefits:

- Enjoyment of the outdoors and physical activity while representing the Natural Areas Program.
- Meeting other volunteers and sharing interests in the outdoors.
- Developing a greater understanding of the role and mission of the Natural Areas Program.
- Assisting other citizens through peer education.
- Participating in high quality public relations and resource management training.
- Continuing education events and volunteer recognition events.

Training:

- Approximately 20 hours of training that includes an orientation to the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program, personal outdoor safety, resource protection, conflict management and emergency assistance.
- Continuing education opportunities as they arise.