



Job Title: Volunteer Ranger Assistant (VRA)

Supervision:

Larimer County Natural Resources & City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Rangers

Summary of Position:

The VRA serves as a visible presence in the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas and at Larimer County Parks and Open Spaces to enhance the experience of the trail user by providing information, site monitoring, and visitor assistance. The VRA works through the Ranger program to respond to questions and inquiries, monitor trails, parks, open spaces 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 staff attention. VRA's may hike, bike, or ride their own horse.

Competitive Application Process:

Typically there are more applications than there are spaces in the training class. The rangers from both agencies rely on VRAs to be their representatives *on the trail*. *As such only the most qualified candidates will be accepted. Thoroughness in completing the application is a must. Volunteers should have ample time to meet the patrol requirements and file reports. Experience in the outdoors, experience with interpersonal customer service and the ability to hike or bike a minimum of two miles should be recorded on the application. Experience dealing with medical issues and emergencies is a plus.*

Duties:

- Provide a visible presence along trails and in open spaces, parks and 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 an online 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 City of Fort Collins Natural Areas and Larimer County Natural Resources regulations.

Requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Strong interpersonal skills

- Must be willing to sign the volunteer agreement, liability waiver and commit at least 20 hours of volunteer service in a calendar year.
- Candidates must successfully complete a minimum of 15 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 both the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas & Larimer County Natural Resources programs and be able to communicate those missions to the public.
- Must abide by parks, open spaces, and 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 Larimer County Natural Resources and the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas rangers with at least one special event or patrol a year.

Benefits:

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

Training:

- Approximately 15 hours of training that includes an orientation to the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas and Larimer County Natural Resources

programs, personal outdoor safety, resource protection, conflict management and emergency assistance.

- Continuing education opportunities as they arise.