

Volunteer Naturalist

Volunteer Description Overview

City of Fort Collins Volunteer Naturalists are volunteers that:

- provide programs including school field trips and community programs,
- welcome visitors to natural areas,
- share practical stewardship tips for these special places.

Volunteer Naturalists care about natural areas and have fun sharing their enthusiasm with others. During the training presentations by a variety of experts, field trips to natural areas, and opportunities to practice techniques provide naturalist trainees with the skills they need to lead fun, fact-filled, and meaningful field trips for all ages.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead nature walks and field trips.
- Conduct education stations for school children.
- Organize and lead classroom activities.
- Staff booths at community events.
- Record your hours and impact through the City's online system, Engage

Impact

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

Training

- Mandatory training of approximately 70 hours
- Training includes presentations by a variety of experts, field trips to natural areas, and learning presentation skills.
- Practice leading fun, fact-filled, and meaningful field trips for all ages.
- FC Volunteer's online onboarding course.
- Natural Areas' online orientation.
- Opportunity to attend continuing education.





Support

Charlotte Norville
Volunteer Specialist
cnorville@fcgov.com
(970) 416-2480

Volunteers are supported through email updates, continuing education, and informal feedback. The Natural Areas Department fully supports the Volunteer Naturalists with lesson planning, equipment, and supplies to make your program the best it can be!

Commitment

- Activities are scheduled well in advance. You will have the opportunity to sign up for those that interest you and fit your schedule.
- Mandatory training of approximately 70 hours
- Commit to at least two years of volunteer service.
- Present a minimum of two programs by the end of the training calendar year and donate at least 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 Department and are provided free of charge; some exceptions may apply.

Skills and Qualifications

- Have an interest in natural history and a feel a connection with nature.
- Be enthusiastic about leading education activities for different age groups.
- 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.
- Must successfully complete the Volunteer Naturalist Training Program, including attendance at training sessions, delivery of a ten-minute, peer-reviewed presentation, and one certification field trip by mid-June.
- The training includes both classroom and field trips. Field trips include hiking approximately 0.5-4.5 miles on paved and unpaved trails, sometimes on rocky ground. Some standing is required. If you have physical limitations, please contact us for accommodations.
- Must be 18 or older.

Dress Code

While volunteering the following items must be worn. All are provided:

- Volunteer name badge/tag
- Volunteer shirt
- Proper safety equipment (safety glasses, gloves when required)

Benefits

- Interact with people with similar interests.
- 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 Department staff and managers.
- Assist visitors in understanding and appreciating natural areas.

Our Philosophy

By becoming a volunteer with the with us, you are joining a long history of community commitment to conservation. Since its inception, the Natural Areas Department has engaged volunteers on every level, from education to stewardship to leadership. Volunteers help extend outreach and strengthen community involvement. We believe that volunteers are one of our most valuable resources.

Information

Charlotte Norville, Natural Areas Volunteer Specialist, 970-416-2480,
cnorville@fcgov.com

Application

<https://engage.fcgov.com/d/NA/App/VolunteerNaturalist>