



**sacramento valley  
conservancy**

*open space. for all.*

# Deer Creek Hills Volunteer Docent

## Job Description

### Background

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy was established in 1990--the first local land trust in Sacramento County, CA. The Conservancy preserves open space for agricultural, scenic, recreational and habitat purposes. The organization has protected over 18,000 acres of land including regional trail systems, vernal pool preserves & oak woodlands.

### Responsibilities

The Volunteer Docent assists the Program Coordinator and Lead Docents with public outing events at Deer Creek Hills and other miscellaneous events throughout the year. (See below for details.) The Volunteer Docent escorts birders, hikers, equestrian riders and mountain bikers when visiting Deer Creek Hills at monthly public events or private outings. A Volunteer Docent must gain familiarity with the SVC organization, attending training, and the property itself, when escorting guests on the property. Volunteer Docents to attend and work at least three outings per year. Volunteer Docents to also possess a comfort with welcoming guest service and enough knowledge (after training) to answer basic guest questions about animals, plants, insects, flowers, geology and history of Deer Creek Hills. Have the ability to hike/ride/bike while escorting guests or to provide other required guest services, at the beginning or exit of the events. Volunteer Docents to report after an outing to the Program Coordinator. In the absence of SVC Staff, report to the Lead Docent for that outing.

#### I. PUBLIC OUTING CHECK-IN DUTIES (10% of time)

- Direct guests to parking at corral area
- Provide shuttle service across Crevis Creek, if needed
- Assist with collecting signed liability forms
- Staff the maps in the kiosk and answer questions about Deer Creek Hills/SVC
- Assist guests with signing in

#### II. PUBLIC EVENTS (85% of time)

- Assist Lead Docent in a sweep or middle role on outings
- Count guests in outing group, ensuring no one is lost
- Return with guest to corral, if guest is unable to continue with a scheduled outing in progress

#### III. RECAP OUTING (with SVC Staff at Event 5% of time)

- Provide exit information about SVC to guests (hand out newsletters)
- Offer feedback to what worked and what did not work on the outing to Lead Docent or SVC Staff

- Report any incidents that occurred on the outing, esp. rules broken or injuries to Lead Docent or SVC Staff

## Qualifications

- (Hike Docents) Must be able to hike 4-6 miles in a 4-hour time frame on uneven terrain and hills while carrying a backpack or hip pack with emergency first aid supplies and water (about 5-10 pounds).
- (Equestrian Docents) Must be able to control your horse amid other horses, open & secure cattle gates, mount and dismount your horse in order to assist a guest rider for a 3-hour time frame.
- (Mt Bike Docent) Must be able to assist guests on a mountain bike at least 8-11 mile of hilly ranch roads and intermediate single track trails in a 2-hour time frame, climbing 750-1000 feet or more.
- Must be able to assist potential emergency response coordination while hiking, by horseback or on mountain bike as appropriate, provide your own cell phone and have the ability to operate it.
- Must be able to volunteer on Saturdays and some Sundays.
- Guest service experience working with the general public
- Ability to provide a welcoming and safe experience for guests
- Ability to work among people of diverse backgrounds
- A genuine interest and enthusiasm for private voluntary land conservation - See [www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org)
- Willingness to work on weekends or as needed for special group scheduled weekday outings

## Bonus Qualifications (Not required, but helpful)

Experience with rural property maintenance

- Experience leading overnight or day trips with youth in the outdoors
- Valid driver's license.
- Leadership experience to inspire fellow docents and guests as a future Lead Docent
- Public speaking experience
- First aid and CPR certified. SVC will pay for cost of this valuable training.
- Education experience with adults or youth, especially on natural resources

## Time Commitment

Minimum 4 outings (1 training + 3 public outings) at 5 hours per event = 20 hours a season, minimum

## Compensation

This is a volunteer position. You will help create a legacy for future generations of the Sacramento Region by helping to educate the general public about SVC, and our mission of voluntary land conservation and nonprofit open space land management providing open space for all of us.