



Deer Creek Hills Volunteer Lead Docent

Job Description

Background

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy (the 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 and Camp Pollock.

Responsibilities

The Volunteer Lead Docent assists SVC staff with public outing events at Deer Creek Hills and/or Camp Pollock each month and other miscellaneous events throughout the year. The Volunteer Lead Docent leads hikers, equestrians and/or mountain bike riders when visiting the public events. The Volunteer Lead Docent must have full knowledge of SVC and the property(s) trail system. Lead Docents will a.) mentor docents with risk management training (attend 2 training dates per year) and b.) attend and work at least two outings per year. Lead Docents to possess experience and comfort with public speaking, presenting/outlining public event (type of outing, distance, time...), review outing rules, and educating visitors about animals, plants, insects, flowers, geology and history of the properties. In preparation of an outing, the lead docent should scout and select a known route, thus ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience of hiking, riding or mountain biking guests. Anticipated avoiding hazardous scenarios and fully understanding established risk management protocol with SVC Staff, is essential as a Lead Docent. Lead Docent must 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, and direct and communicate with fellow volunteer docents for roles on a public outing. During outings the Volunteer Lead Docent reports to SVC staff.

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

- * Welcome visitors to the property on behalf of SVC
- * Provide shuttle service across Crevis Creek, if needed
- * Direct guests to parking at corral area
- * Assist with collecting signed liability forms
- * Staff the kiosk, show maps, and answer questions about SVC
- * Provide information about SVC to guests (hand out newsletters)

II. PUBLIC EVENTS (85% of time)

- * Frame out the day's outing to registered guests prior to departing (length, location, difficulty rating, what will be highlighted...)
- * Cover the "rules" to outing being led with registered guests
- * Divide guests into manageable groups and assign docents to escort guests
- * Assign a Sweep and Middle Docent to groups at a public event
- * Responsible for keeping count of visitors, number that leave corral also return at end of outing.
- * Touch base with Sweep Docents on the group's progress
- * Assign Docent to 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)

- * Recap with Trip End Report to SVC staff

- * Turn in Liability forms to SVC staff or SVC Office
- * Offer feedback to what worked and what did not work on the outing
- * Report any incidents that occurred on the outing, esp. rules broken or injuries.

Qualifications

- * Must be able to lead potential emergency response coordination
- * Provide your own cell phone and have the ability to operate it.
- * Minimum 2 years active Volunteer Docent with guest service experience at DCH working with the general public
- * Must be recommended by 2 Lead Docents and approved by SVC staff
- * Extended knowledge of property fields, trails and location of gates
- * Understanding of risk management of hiking/biking/equestrian activities
- * Valid driver's license
- * First aid and CPR certified. SVC will pay for cost of this valuable training.
- * Public speaking experience
- * Ability to provide a welcoming and safe experience for guests
- * Ability to mentor docents wanting to become Lead Docents
- * A genuine interest and enthusiasm for land conservation
- * Willingness to work on weekends or as needed for special group scheduled weekday outings
- * Hike Docents - Must be able to lead registered guest on hikes 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 lead and 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 lead 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.

Preferred Qualifications (Not required, but helpful)

- * Experience with rural property maintenance
- * Experience leading overnight or day trips with youth in the outdoors
- * 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.