South Platte Park Volunteers and Intern Needed

To apply for any of these opportunities, click here.

**Position Title: Nature Center Host including Parent-Child Host Teams**

**Job Summary:** Serve as a host at the front desk of the Nature Center, greeting visitors and answering questions. The goal is to help visitors find meaning and value in natural open spaces like South Platte Park by interpreting the natural and cultural history for visitors. The expectation is for at least one Host shift per month: Saturday or Sunday, 9:20 am - 1:00 pm or 1:00 - 4:40 pm; or Tuesday through Friday, 11:50 am - 4:40 pm.

- Greet Nature Center visitors and create a sense of active hospitality and superior customer service to all Park visitors through courteous, patient, helpful assistance.
- Open, close, and be responsible for Nature Center security.
- Keep track of the number of visitors and other visitor-related information.
- Answer questions about the Nature Center and South Platte Park.
- Promote South Platte Park and South Suburban programs and offerings.
- Interpret Nature Center displays and South Platte Park natural resources.
- Assist with nature center tasks as needed, including live specimen feeding/care, and gift shop sales.

**Job Requirements:** Must be at least 10 years old, ages 10 – 16 must have a parent or guardian alongside during any work and are considered Parent/Child Naturalist Teams. Familiarity with or a strong interest in nature, interpretation, or park management is important.

**Experience:** Some basic nature knowledge or strong desire to learn more about nature is preferred. On-the-job training will be provided. Volunteers with experience in education, interpretation, public speaking, or customer service should mention this when applying.

**Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

- Ability to readily communicate with people of all ages and backgrounds
- Ability to meet all the duties listed for the position.
- Ability to become familiar with the objectives of the District, the park, and the project/program.
- Ability to follow work-place safety procedures introduced by staff.
- Awareness of the policies and goals of the Park as presented during training.
- Ability to successfully and productively work without immediate supervision within established policies and procedures.
- Ability to learn and demonstrate maintenance and proper use of hand tools, or other equipment provided.
- Ability to regularly exercise discretion and independent judgment for the duties.
- Ability to adapt to changing priorities, weather events, and special work requests.
- Ability to interact tactfully, clearly, concisely, and appropriately with the public, District administration, co-workers, volunteers, and other agencies or contractors.
- Ability to listen and follow directions/instructions from supervisory staff, both orally and in writing, and via electronic communications.

**Preferred certifications:** First Aid/CPR/AED Training, Certified Interpretive Guide, or volunteers with experience in schools or education, public speaking skills, etc. should share that when applying.
Work Environment: This position primary works indoors in a historic two-story building with stairs only in a busy nature center/office environment. The position is subject to continuous interruptions and handling of small live exhibit specimens. There are minimal though routine needs to briefly work outside where the environment can be wet, humid, extreme in temperature variation, and with potentially loud background noises. Volunteers may be regularly required to stand, or sit for up to four hours. Handles and operates objects and equipment, reaches outward and above the shoulder to carry, pull, push or lift up to 10 lbs unassisted. Must communicate clearly and effectively in English, must understand and be understood. This list is not all-inclusive and represents examples of the work environment and physical demands.

Position Title: Wildlife Monitor at South Platte Park

Job Summary: A member of the South Platte Monitoring Team participates in once a month to several times a week wildlife observation activities. Existing programs focus on birds, but other classes of wildlife could be included in the future. The expectation is around three hours per month minimum during the season for each study.

- Knowledge of and the ability to identify the wildlife species or the willingness to gain that ability.
- Ability to record in writing accurate results of the observations.
- The ability to follow simple maps of South Platte Park.
- Works with other monitors usually in a small group.
- Current ongoing counts include the Winter Waterfowl Census, Spring and Fall Migratory Counts and Nest box monitoring.

Job Requirements: Must be at least 12 years old, depending on the specialty area, ages 12 – 16 must have a parent or guardian on site during any work. Familiarity with or a strong interest in nature, wildlife, or park management is important.

Experience: Interest or experience in wildlife observation and identification, use of binoculars and scopes. On-the-job training will be provided.

Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Ability to meet all the duties listed for the position.
- Ability to become familiar with the objectives of the District, the park, and the project/program.
- Ability to follow work-place safety procedures introduced by staff.
- Awareness of the policies and goals of the Park as presented during training.
- Ability to successfully and productively work without immediate supervision within established policies and procedures.
- Ability to learn and demonstrate maintenance and proper use of hand tools, or other equipment provided.
- Ability to regularly exercise discretion and independent judgment for the duties
- Ability to adapt to changing priorities, weather events, and special work requests,
- Ability to interact tactfully, clearly, concisely, and appropriately with the public, District administration, co-workers, volunteers, and other agencies or contractors,
- Ability to listen and follow directions/instructions from supervisory staff,

Preferred certifications: none
Work Environment: Requires mildly vigorous outdoor work in possibly adverse conditions. It may include extremes in temperature, sun, lighting, and precipitation. It may include working in noisy group environments with rapidly changing priorities due to weather or program participant needs. Volunteers may be regularly required to stand, sit, and kneel for up to three hours. Handles and operates objects and equipment, reaches outward and above the shoulder to carry, pull, push or lift to 20 lbs unassisted. May need to pick up small plants or animals. Must communicate clearly and effectively in English, must understand and be understood. Staff is officed on the 2nd floor of a historic two-story building with stairs only, though most volunteer positions can be accomplished without needing to access that area. This list is not all-inclusive and represents examples of the work environment and physical demands.

Position Title: Interpretation Intern at South Platte Park

Job Summary: This internship creates a learning opportunity and entry-level experience in interpretation, education, customer service, and program delivery, as well as is responsible for a variety of tasks for and support to staff. Specific duties will vary depending on the season and area of internship focus.

- Assist with interpretive programs including school field trips, summer camps and youth programs, adult and family programs. Provide assistance to youth with activities, help with group management and safety, help engage participants in nature and learning.
- Provide administrative and clerical support to staff. Answer telephones and provide accurate information to customers, route calls to appropriate personnel and/or take and deliver messages as appropriate.
- Attend and participate in various District meetings as assigned.
- Maintain accurate systems of record keeping and develop reports.

Job Requirements: Must be at least 18 years old and enrolled in an applicable educational program. Unpaid internships are volunteers and for school credit only, not employment, and will be primarily educational in nature. Unpaid / volunteer interns will not be given tasks to complete unsupervised. Familiarity with or a strong interest in nature, interpretation, or park management is important.

Experience: On-the-job training will be provided, however, experience or coursework in interpretation, education, public speaking, or customer service is preferred.

Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Ability to meet all the duties listed for the position.
- Knowledge of ecological and wildlife principles or demonstrated ability to gain quickly, as well as Colorado’s ecosystems and riparian systems.
- Skill in interpretive communication, and program development and delivery, or demonstrate developing skill
- Ability to swim confidently in deep or moving water,
- Ability to find and capture insects and aquatic invertebrates,
- Ability to lead groups on hiking trails, canoeing, and other adventure travel, or demonstrate the ability to learn
- Ability to identify birds, tracks and mammals, tracks, astronomic and weather phenomena, or other naturalist skills, or demonstrate interest and ability to learn
- Ability to read and interpret field guides and marketing information,
- Ability to work several weekends per month, some evenings and occasional holidays.
• Ability to become familiar with the objectives of the District, the park, and the project/program.
• Ability to follow work-place safety procedures introduced by staff.
• Awareness of the policies and goals of the Park as presented during training,
• Ability to successfully and productively work without immediate supervision within established policies and procedures,
• Ability to learn and demonstrate maintenance and proper use of hand tools, or other equipment provided,
• Ability to regularly exercise discretion and independent judgement for the duties
• Ability to adapt to changing priorities, weather events, and special work requests,
• Ability to interact tactfully, clearly, concisely, and appropriately with the public, District administration, co-workers, volunteers, and other agencies or contractors,
• Ability to listen and follow directions/instructions from supervisory staff,
• For interpretation positions, ability to communicate with and lead a group in the field and maintain safety and control; ability to find answers to questions asked of you.

Preferred certifications: none, though volunteers with certifications such as Native Plant Master, Certified Interpretive Guide, or with experience in schools or education, public speaking skills, etc should share that when applying.

Work Environment: Requires mildly vigorous outdoor work in possibly adverse conditions. It may include extremes in temperature, sun, lighting, and precipitation. It may include working in noisy group environments with rapidly changing priorities due to weather or program participant needs. Volunteers may be regularly required to stand, sit, and kneel for up to three hours. Handles and operates objects and equipment, reaches outward and above the shoulder to carry, pull, push or lift up to 20 lbs unassisted. May need to pick up small plants or animals. Must communicate clearly and effectively in English, must understand and be understood. Staff is officed on the 2nd floor of a historic two-story building with stairs only, though most volunteer positions can be accomplished without needing to access that area. This list is not all-inclusive and represents examples of the work environment and physical demands.

Position Title: South Platte Park Stewardship Team

• Job Summary: A member of the South Platte Park Stewardship Team participates in a wide range of work activities to help maintain the natural environment of South Platte Park. The expectation is approximately four hours per month contribution.
• Projects vary and include weeding by hand or tool, cutting and removing brush, planting trees and shrubs, collecting litter, repairing trails, wrapping trees with beaver-protection wire, raking, and seeding.
• Assist with loading and tracking tools and cleaning up at the end of each project.
• Use and maintains a variety of hand tools depending on that day’s assignment. Shovels, loppers, hand saws, clippers, and rakes are all used frequently.
• Works with other members of the Stewardship team usually in a small group.

Job Requirements: Must be at least 12 years old, depending on the specialty area, ages 12 – 16 must have a parent, guardian, or group leader onsite during any work. Familiarity with or a strong interest in nature, interpretation, or park management is important.

Experience: Experience in gardening, landscaping, flower or plant identification, or grounds maintenance, is preferred. On-the-job training will be provided.
Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Ability to meet all the duties listed for the position.
- Ability to become familiar with the objectives of the District, the park, and the project/program.
- Ability to follow work-place safety procedures introduced by staff.
- Awareness of the policies and goals of the Park as presented during training,
- Ability to successfully and productively work without immediate supervision within established policies and procedures,
- Ability to learn and demonstrate maintenance and proper use of hand tools, or other equipment provided,
- Ability to regularly exercise discretion and independent judgment for the duties
- Ability to adapt to changing priorities, weather events, and special work requests,
- Ability to interact tactfully, clearly, concisely, and appropriately with the public, District administration, co-workers, volunteers, and other agencies or contractors,
- Ability to listen and follow directions/instructions from supervisory staff

Preferred certifications: none, though volunteers with certifications such as Native Plant Master, Master Gardener, etc. should share that when applying to their specialty area of choice.

Work Environment: Requires mildly vigorous outdoor work in possibly adverse conditions. It may include extremes in temperature, sun, lighting, and precipitation. Volunteers may be regularly required to stand, sit, and kneel for up to three hours. Handles and operates objects and equipment, reaches outward and above the shoulder to carry, pull, push or lift up to 20 lbs unassisted. May need to pick up small plants or animals. Must communicate clearly and effectively in English, must understand and be understood. Staff is officed on the 2nd floor of a historic two-story building with stairs only, though most volunteer positions can be accomplished without needing to access that area. This list is not all-inclusive and represents examples of the work environment and physical demands.

Position Title: Field Trip Guide at South Platte Park

Job Summary: South Platte Park volunteers participate in delivering at least two programs per month during the six months of the primary season (Sept – Nov and Mar – May). The volunteer is responsible for supporting and assisting with preparation for and the conducting of interpretive programs for students, usually at South Platte Park (SPP) or at a school location.

- Prepares school chaperones (parents) for their role during the field trip.
- Guides a group of students (usually between 5 and 11 years of age) with their chaperone/s on a hike of approximately one hour, providing an interpretation of natural elements at SPP according to prepared outlines and training.
- Monitors students and chaperones complete activities in or around the Carson Nature Center.
- Leads an activity at the river table in the Carson Nature Center.
- Develops and maintains a positive relationship with participants and chaperones by actively engaging with them and responding to their interests and needs.
Job Requirements: Must be at least 18 years old, depending on the specialty area, ages 16+ may be considered in certain circumstances. Familiarity with or a strong interest in nature and interpretation or education is important.

Experience: Some college-level education in Science or Education preferred, but field experience can be substituted. Prefer individuals with a minimum of six (6) months experience working with school-aged children or demonstrate the ability and desire to do so. On-the-job training will be provided. Preferred qualifications include wildlife or plant identification, education, interpretation, public speaking, or customer service.

Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Knowledge of or demonstrates the ability to gain quickly ecological and wildlife principles and Colorado’s ecosystems, particularly riparian systems.
- Skill in, or demonstrates developing skill in Interpretive communication and program delivery, creating cognitive and emotional connections to the resource.
- Ability to lead students and chaperones on hiking trails.
- Ability to accomplish the appropriate task for the current program: catching insects or macroinvertebrates, identify tracks, birds or plants, or other naturalist skill.
- Ability to read and interpret field guides and marketing information, and the ability to find answers to questions asked of you.
- Willingness to adapt to changing priorities, weather events, and special work requests
- Ability to meet all the duties listed for the position.
- Ability to become familiar with the objectives of the District, the park, and the project/program.
- Ability to follow work-place safety procedures introduced by staff.
- Awareness of the policies and goals of the Park as presented during training.
- Ability to successfully and productively work without immediate supervision within established policies and procedures,
- Ability to learn and demonstrate maintenance and proper use of hand tools, or other equipment provided,
- Ability to regularly exercise discretion and independent judgment for the duties
- Ability to adapt to changing priorities, weather events, and special work requests,
- Ability to interact tactfully, clearly, concisely, and appropriately with the public, District administration, co-workers, volunteers, and other agencies or contractors,
- Ability to listen and follow directions/instructions from supervisory staff,

Preferred certifications: Volunteers with certifications such as Native Plant Master, Certified Interpretive Guide, First Aid/CPR, or with experience in schools or education, public speaking skills, etc should share that when applying

Work Environment: Requires mildly vigorous outdoor work in possibly adverse conditions. It may include extremes in temperature, sun, lighting, and precipitation. It may include working in noisy group environments with rapidly changing priorities due to weather or program participant needs. River programs require walking in a current, on a slippery and uneven bottom. Volunteers may be regularly required to stand, sit, and kneel for up to three hours. Handles and operates objects and equipment, reaches outward and above the shoulder to carry, pull, push or lift up to 20 lbs unassisted. May need to pick up small plants or animals. Must communicate clearly and effectively in English, must understand and be understood. Staff is officed on the 2nd floor of a historic two-story building with stairs only, though most volunteer positions can be accomplished without needing to access that area. This list is not all-inclusive and represents examples of the work environment and physical demands.
Position Title: Public Program Assistant at South Platte Park

Job Summary: Assist professional naturalists and interpreters deliver programs which help participants find meaning and value in natural open spaces such as South Platte Park. Interpret the natural and cultural history of the South Platte Park Valley, flora, fauna and astronomy to program participants. The expectation is helping with approximately one program per month.

- Greet participants and assist with checking in prior to program start.
- Help with group management on the trail, including keeping the group together, and appropriately paced; and helping monitor participant safety on trails in and around water and in dark areas. Carry equipment such as binoculars, spotting scopes as able.
- Assist with tables/chairs and setting up/cleaning up before and after programs. Help prepare refreshments if applicable
- Assist with art/craft activities
- Assist with setup/breakdown and staffing of special events and booth events
- Assist with the evaluation process for participants.

Job Requirements: Must be at least 18 years old, ages 16 and older may be considered depending on the circumstances. Familiarity with or a strong interest in nature or interpretation is important.

Experience: On-the-job training will be provided, preferred qualifications include any experience in wildlife or plant identification, use of binoculars and scopes, education, interpretation, public speaking, or customer service.

Necessary Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Ability to meet all the duties listed for the position.
- Ability to become familiar with the objectives of the District, the park, and the project/program.
- Ability to follow work-place safety procedures introduced by staff.
- Awareness of the policies and goals of the Park as presented during training,
- Ability to successfully and productively work without immediate supervision within established policies and procedures,
- Ability to learn and demonstrate maintenance and proper use of hand tools, or other equipment provided,
- Ability to regularly exercise discretion and independent judgment for the duties
- Ability to adapt to changing priorities, weather events, and special work requests,
- Ability to interact tactfully, clearly, concisely, and appropriately with the public, District administration, co-workers, volunteers, and other agencies or contractors,
- Ability to listen and follow directions/instructions from supervisory staff,

Preferred certifications: First Aid, CPR/AED training, Certified Interpretive Guide, or volunteers with experience in schools or education or public speaking skills should share that when applying to their specialty area of choice.

Work Environment: Requires mildly vigorous outdoor work in possibly adverse conditions. It may include extremes in temperature, sun, lighting, and precipitation. It may include working in noisy group environments with rapidly changing priorities due to weather or program participant needs. Volunteers may be regularly required to stand, sit, and kneel for up to three hours. Handles and operates objects and equipment, reaches
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