



# EDUCATION PROGRAMS DOCENT **VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION**

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## **General Description**

Education Program Docents are volunteers that assist with leading the River Parkway Trust's education programs for school groups. The Trust runs 100+ field trips each school year that appeal to participants through their hearts, heads, and hands to create a sense of feeling at "home" in the San Joaquin River and its environs. Education Docents lead activities during morning field trips for school groups at the River Center, Lost Lake Park, and Sycamore Island. Field trips take place M-F, from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Field trips are led by paid River Parkway Trust staff; docents act as assistants. Docents are provided training on program activities and curriculum, and are asked to assist with at least one field trip per month.

## **Programs**

*River Field Trips:* Field trips for children in grades 1-6 take place weekdays from 9:00 am -1:00 pm during the school year.

*Fresno Unified 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Program:* 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trips at the River Center or Lost Lake Park, or Owl Hollow, focus on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade NGSS correlations and Native American history. Teachers choose from grade level correlated activities.

*Madera Unified 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Program:* Series of 3 experiences including 2 field trips and 1 in-class presentation (see below) focusing on the importance of water. The first field trip takes place at Owl Hollow (typically in the late fall) and consists of 2-3 activities and a nature walk. The second field trip takes place at Sycamore Island (typically in the early spring) and consists of 2-3 activities and the opportunity for students to go canoeing.

*Other/General Field Trip Program:* Open to any 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms that would like to attend. Teachers choose from grade-level correlated activities.

*In-Class Presentations:* Classroom visit program (typically with Madera Unified 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms) which provides an interactive presentation that prepares students for a River Field Trip. Presentations typically take place weekday mornings in early fall (September-October).

*River Buddies:* Pre-school program held at River Center and designed to teach young children about the local environment focusing on one of 3 themes: Bird Buddies, Bug Buddies, or Pond Pals. Trips typically take place weekday mornings from 9:00 am – 11:00 am.

## **Duties, Responsibilities and Expectations**

- Attend occasional trainings on new programs or activities
- Assist on 1 field trip per month (may be any of the above programs)
  - Assist with field trip set-up and clean up
  - Lead one activity for each classroom during field trip (for example, lead the nature walk 3 times for all 3 classrooms on one field trip)
- Provide post-field trip reports to program staff

## **Qualifications**

- Enthusiasm and passion for working with youth of varying ages
- Interest in the outdoors and environmental education
- Previous experience working with children
- Ability to work outdoors for several hours on varying terrain or in varying weather conditions
- All volunteers that work with children must be fingerprinted for background check.

## **Program Timeline**

Field trips take place during the school year (August-May). Trainings on various programs/activities take place throughout the season (typically on weekday mornings). Docents are asked to assist with at least one field trip each month, and are able to choose which trips they assist on.

## **To Get Involved**

Contact the Community Programs Director at any time of year for more information. Those new to the program will be invited to attend ("shadow") an upcoming field trip to see if they are interested in getting involved. If so, participants will receive additional training/attend a training session, undergo LiveScan fingerprinting and criminal history check, and begin adding themselves to the field-trip schedule (provided once participants have committed to the program).

## **Contact Info**

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[CLICK HERE](#) to see Field Trip activities