



EDUCATION PROGRAMS DOCENT

JOB DESCRIPTION

General Description

Education Program Docents assist in the facilitation of Parkway's education programs for local school Districts. Each school year Parkway leads over 100 exciting, educational field trips along the San Joaquin River, engaging students in hands-on learning that supports classroom curriculum through fun nature-based activities. Education Program Docents play a vital role in inspiring the next generation by bringing science to life in the great outdoors. Education Docents lead activities during field trips at the River Center, Owl Hollow, Lost Lake Park, and Sycamore Island. Field trips take place M-F, from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Docents are provided training on program activities and curriculum.

River Field Trips: *School field trips that are offered to any District, charter or private school.*

- Support and lead hands-on outdoor learning activities for visiting school groups (grades 1st–8th)
Facilitate field trip programs for:

Fresno Unified 3rd & 4th Grade Programs: Lead NGSS-aligned activities and nature walks at the River Center, Lost Lake Park, or Owl Hollow

Madera Unified 6th Grade Program: Assist with a series of three experiences, including field trips at Owl Hollow and Sycamore Island and an in-class presentation focused on local watersheds and conservation

General Field Trip Programs: Guide activities for visiting classes from across the valley, helping students explore and connect with the natural environment

- Engage students in interactive, age-appropriate lessons about ecology, wildlife, and the San Joaquin River watershed
- Provide a safe, welcoming, and inclusive learning environment for all participant
- Collaborate with staff and other volunteers to prepare materials, set up activity stations, and ensure programs run smoothly

Weekend Programs: *Weekend programs are typically held on weekends to our community free of charge.*

Duties, Responsibilities and Expectations

- Assist with leading and facilitating weekend community programs such as guided hikes, scavenger hunts, and nature-based activities
- Engage visitors of all ages in outdoor learning experiences that highlight the San Joaquin River's natural and cultural resources
- Support the setup, cleanup, and organization of program materials and activity areas
- Provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for all participants
- Share information about Parkway's mission, programs, and upcoming events
- Collaborate with staff and other volunteers to ensure programs run smoothly and safely

Qualifications

- Enthusiasm and passion for working with youth of varying ages

- Interest in the outdoors and environmental education
- Previous experience working with children preferred
- 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 a DOJ background check.
- Naturalist experience preferred

Program Timeline

Field trips take place during the school year (August-May). Training on various programs/activities take place throughout the season, typically on weekends. Docents are asked to assist with at least three field trips each month and are able to choose their schedule

To Get Involved

Contact the Community Programs Director at any time of year for more information. Registration for training will be sent to the email provided in your interest form.

Contact Info

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