Volunteer Opportunities at Fischer Park Nature Education Center

Thanks so much for your interest in volunteering at Fischer Park!

I have been the Supervisor here since May 2022, and our volunteer program is still young and growing. I am open to your ideas and suggestions, but below are our current opportunities.

Please note that all regular volunteers, even Texas Master Naturalists, must complete a background check with the city. It’s a simple online form and there is no cost to you.

**Educational Programs:**

**Saturday programming (kids and adults):**

Lead or assist with a variety of educational nature programs. The below programs generally take place on Saturdays, but sometimes are offered to private groups during the week.

Time commitment varies but is generally between 2-3 hours.

Some of options include:

* **Birdwatching 101:** Usually held 2 Saturdays each season.
* **Fishing 101 (freshwater fishing license required):** Generally the 2nd Saturday of the month, time varies with the season.
* **Garden Volunteer Day:** Assist visitors in caring for our Monarch Waystation and Pollinator Garden. 1st Saturday of the month, in the morning.
* **Night Hikes:** Held 2-3 times each season on the 1st Saturday of that month; time varies with season.

**Birthday Parties (kids):** Lead or assist with a 1-hour educational nature program during a scheduled private birthday party.Also assist with prep and tear-down. Time commitment generally 3 hours. Program themes include: Dino Dig, Bugs and Critters, Fishing (Backyard Bass and/or “Real” Fishing), Butterfly Garden.

**School-aged Field Trips (usually K - 5th grade)**

Lead (or assist with) an educational field trip station for a public, private, or homeschool group. Usually held in the morning – many scheduled in spring, but some in fall as well. Field trips are usually 1-2 hours, so with set-up and tear-down, total time commitment is approximately 3-4 hours. All training and materials provided. Sample stations include Seed balls; Pond Dipping; Furs and Skulls; and Butterfly Garden.

**Maintenance Projects:**

Assist with a variety of maintenance tasks, including (but not limited to):

* Invasive species removal
* Working in/helping maintain our Monarch Waystation Pollinator Garden
* Carpentry or building/assembling items as needed
* Fishing pole maintenance/repair

**Citizen Science:**

**eBirding and iNaturalist:** Contribute to our knowledge of the natural resources of Fischer Park. We recently got a Project for Fischer Park set up in iNaturalist, and plan to participate in the San Antonio City Nature Challenge the last weekend of April!

**Special Events:**

Assist with park special events, including check-in/information stations, kids’ activities, etc.

Thank you so much for partnering with us!

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Holly Platz

Recreation Programs Supervisor

Fischer Park Nature Education Center

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