



Teen Volunteer Program

Dear Prospective Teen Volunteer,

Thank you for your interest in our Teen Volunteer Program. Your commitment to volunteering contributes to the success of programs at the nature center and touches the lives of many people throughout the Pikes Peak Region. I hope that you will also benefit from the learning that takes place through the **application and interview** process as well as having an enjoyable and productive experience contributing to your community and the environment.

Attached is a copy of the Teen Volunteer Application form. There are several options to choose from. Please look at the volunteer descriptions and select those you are interested in. Most of the opportunities have specific commitments (i.e. a week-long nature camp, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.). Some of the volunteer positions work directly with staff, while on others you may be required to work on your own or with another volunteer.

Nature Camp Aide. This position will:

- **Have required training for new applicants on May 27 from 5:00-7:30 p.m.** (You may skip training only with previous approval by nature center supervisor)
- Learn nature connection, safety skills, equipment location, recording volunteer hours, guidelines for behavior, leading games and a general overview of nature camps.

Please complete and return your application to Bear Creek Nature Center as soon as possible and no later than May 9, 2025. Some options have limited positions available and will fill up quickly so please submit your application as soon as possible. I will set up an interview with you to determine where your skills and abilities best fit our needs. You may use this volunteer experience to fulfill community service hours for school and honor societies.

If you have any questions or need an extra application for a friend or family member, please call me at 719-520-6388 or send an e-mail to maryjolewis@elpasoco.com.

Best,

Mary Jo Lewis

Mary Jo Lewis
Nature Center Supervisor

Bear Creek Nature Center

Teen Volunteer Application

Return application to:

Teen Volunteer Program
Bear Creek Nature Center
245 Bear Creek Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Questions? Call Mary Jo Lewis at 719-520-6388.

Name _____ Date: _____
Home Address _____ Home Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
E-mail _____ Current age: _____ (Must be 14 years old to volunteer)
Date of Birth: Month _____ / Day _____ / Year _____ Grade completed at end of school year _____
How did you or your parents hear about this volunteer program? School _____ Newspaper _____ TV _____ Radio _____
Friend _____ Website _____ Nature Center _____ Other _____

Parent or Guardian Must Complete This Medical & Emergency Information:

In case of emergency notify:

Name _____ Relationship _____
Address (if different from above) _____ City _____ Zip Code _____
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Other emergency contacts (include name, relationship and phone): _____
Please indicate any physical concerns you have about your child's participation such as allergies, limitations, etc.: _____

In case of emergency, I understand and agree that every effort will be made to notify my emergency contacts. In the event that they cannot be reached, I hereby give permission to park staff to secure treatment for my child. I consent to emergency transportation, if necessary.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

THE UNDERSIGNED PERSON (Volunteer) hereby acknowledges intent to volunteer for the El Paso County Parks. The Volunteer freely and unconditionally waives and releases El Paso County (County) and any and all of its elected officials, employees, representatives and agents and their successors from all liability related to the Volunteer, his personal representatives, assigned heirs, and next of kin for any and all loss or damage and any resulting claims of demands due to injury to the person or property or death of the Volunteer, whether caused by the negligence of the County or otherwise. The Volunteer further agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold the County harmless from and against any and all liabilities, demands, claims, damages, suits, judgments and decrees, and court awards including costs, expenses and attorneys' fees, on account of injuries to or death of any person or persons or damage to any property arising out of or related to the Volunteer's intentional or negligent acts, errors or omissions for the duration of the Volunteer's participation. This release is binding upon the Volunteer's heirs, executors, administrators, agents, liability insurers and assignees, and shall be interpreted in accordance with Colorado law. The Volunteer represents that he / she is covered by worker's compensation insurance or adequate medical insurance. The Volunteer understands that he / she is not an employee of El Paso County, its agents or Departments, and agrees that he / she will not receive any compensation or benefit nor be eligible for any coverage under the Colorado Workers' Compensation Act. I or my Parent/guardian also authorizes and consents to the use of participant's name and/or picture in television, newsprint, advertisement or other media.

Applicant's Signature/

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian if Volunteer is a Minor

Relationship

Application is continued on other side.

The following is a list of our Teen Volunteer positions. Check the ones of greatest interest and mark with a 1st, 2nd & 3rd choice.

Nature Camp Aide – Must attend mandatory camp aide training Wednesday, May 27 from 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Teen Aides assist with all aspects of camp (i.e. crafts, games, hikes, supervision) and need to be available from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

____ Summer Camps: (circle preferred dates) June 1-5, 8:30am-3:30pm // June 15-19, 8:30am-3:30pm (Middle School Camp) // June 22-26, 8:30am-12:30pm // July 6-10, 8:30am-3:30pm // July 20-24, 8:30am-3:30pm

Special Event Aide

____ March 27: Nighttime Eggstravaganza at Fox Run Regional Park (6:30-9:30 p.m.)

____ April 4: Chocolate Bunny Egg Hunt (8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.)

____ October 17: Halloween Event (time TBD)

____ November 7: Bear Run (8:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.)

____ December 4: Bear Creek by Candlelight (4:30-9:00 p.m.)

Please answer the following questions: Attach additional pages if needed. Teens must complete the following in his or her own handwriting. Use the back if necessary.

1. Have you volunteered at Bear Creek Nature Center before? Yes ____ No ____ If yes, what new opportunities are you looking forward to? _____

2. Why do you want to volunteer with Bear Creek Nature Center? _____

3. Name/list two strengths that you have that you feel would be a benefit to the position you are applying for:

4. List at least two interests, hobbies, or activities that you enjoy: _____

5. What attracts you to Bear Creek Nature Center? _____

6. What new skills do you hope to acquire? _____

7. What personal traits do you have that will help you succeed as a volunteer with the summer programs in which you are interested? _____

8. Explain two or more things you do on a regular basis to help other people in your family, school or community. _____

9. Please share two other things about yourself. _____
