Volunteer Naturalist

Volunteer Description
City of Aurora Open Space and Natural Resources (OSNR) Volunteer Naturalists help educate about Aurora’s natural resources and their importance to our daily lives and future. Volunteer naturalists are trained educators that share their knowledge about nature with the community. They can lead their own educational programs or assist naturalist staff with public and school programs. Volunteer naturalists also staff nature center desks providing information and education to drop-in visitors. Finally, they help with naturalist events throughout the year.

Duties
- Assist naturalist staff during educational programs for various groups. This can include program research/preparation, set up and clean up.
- Lead educational programs if desired and after completing the required trainings.
- Staff the desk at any of Aurora’s three nature centers. Provide trail, program, and natural resource education to drop-in visitors.
- Assist staff with various events including Earth Day Celebration, Art Show, Agriculture Festival, Halloween Nature Trail, Santa Wagon Rides and more.

Required Trainings
- Volunteer naturalists are required to watch the OSNR volunteer orientation video and the introduction to interpretation video.
- After completion, volunteers are required to shadow two naturalist programs before fully assisting.
- After assisting two programs, volunteer naturalists have the choice of leading their own educational programs. Leading one’s own educational programs is not required to be a volunteer naturalist.
- Volunteer naturalists interested in staffing the nature center desks are required to complete two shadow shifts to receive training from naturalist staff.

Dress Code
While performing volunteer naturalist duties the following items must be worn. All are provided:
- Volunteer shirt
- Volunteer name badge

Benefits
- Help people connect with nature and inspire stewardship through education.
- Give back to nature by showing others the importance of natural resources.
- Attend additional continuing education classes that increase knowledge of natural resources for lifelong learning or professional development.

Questions
Fendi Despres, Open Space and Natural Resources Volunteer Coordinator,
303.326.8380, OSNRvolunteers@auroragov.org

**How to apply**
[Click here to apply to be a volunteer naturalist](#)

*Our mission is to preserve open spaces that connect people with nature, today and in the future, through effective stewardship practices.*