

Volunteer with Seattle Parks & Recreation!

Urban Forest Educators

A Branch of the Seattle Volunteer Naturalist Program



Become an Urban Forest Educator!

Urban Forest Educators are volunteers who engage young people in the restoration of Seattle's forested parks and greenspaces by leading environmental learning and stewardship opportunities.

As an Urban Forest Educator, you will:

- **Receive training** on Pacific Northwest forest ecology, habitat restoration, and environmental education techniques for diverse audiences.
- **Lead learning and stewardship events** (interpretive forest walks, invasive plant removal, native plant installation, and more) in Seattle's urban forest with young people.



Commitment:

- ✓ Complete of 3 days of training in Fall 2014 (September 18, September 25, and October 2)
- ✓ Lead and/or support at least 5 education and stewardship events in Fall 2014 and Winter 2015

Locations: Various places around the City of Seattle, including the Discovery Park Environmental Learning Center, the Camp Long Environmental Learning Center, and many other forested parklands.

Service Days & Hours: Mainly during the week, with specific dates and times determined by individual volunteer availability and based on the needs of the program.



To Apply:

- Please review the attached job description.
- Submit your application by **August 18!**
- Applications found online at www.seattle.gov/parks/environment/learning.htm.
- Complete online or print and mail.

Questions?

Contact **Justin Hellier**, Seattle Volunteer Naturalist Coordinator, at justin.hellier@seattle.gov or [206.386.4169](tel:206.386.4169)

Urban Forest Educators

Job Description

OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE: *Urban Forest Educators work with a team of professional naturalists, school teachers, forest stewards, and other fellow volunteers to facilitate young people's environmental learning and stewardship of the urban forest.*

DUTIES FOR URBAN FOREST EDUCATORS:

- Take part in formal training.
- Lead and support hands-on stewardship activities (invasive species removal, planting native species, monitoring, etc.) with young people, with the Green Seattle Partnership's Urban Forestry Project.
- Lead and support interpretive and educational walks about the urban forest with school classes, with the Environmental Learning Centers' School Programs.
- Communicate frequently with staff regarding scheduling, upcoming events, and other details.
- Provide park information and correctional education to the public when appropriate.
- Commit to continuing self-education about the urban forest, habitat restoration, and environmental education for diverse audiences.

BENEFITS: Learn about the ecology and natural and cultural history of Seattle's urban forests. Develop and hone communication, education, and group management skills. Develop and hone hands-on restoration and stewardship skills, and promote an ethic of stewardship of natural resources among young people. Share fun, fellowship and community with others who enjoy nature and appreciate parks throughout Seattle.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must attend all training dates and commit to lead or support 5 programs
- Enjoy working with members of the public and especially with young people
- Follow policies and procedures of the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation
- Ability and stamina to lead group walks over rough terrain, carry supplies, and to perform invasive removal, planting, and other stewardship tasks
- Willingness to work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Ability to transport yourself to event locations in parks throughout Seattle in a reliable manner, and to take a Defensive Driving course if you'll use a vehicle

TRAINING INCLUDES:

Core Naturalist & Stewardship Training

Three six-hour training sessions focused on forest ecology and restoration, teaching techniques, interpretive methods, group management, and cultural competence.

Self-Guided Education

Outside of training sessions, you will review educational materials provided by staff, and attend a Green Seattle Partnership work party.

Continuing Education Sessions

Several optional skill-building, natural history, and ecology classes are offered throughout the year. You are encouraged to attend these in addition to the core training and other volunteer naturalist meetings.

SEATTLE VOLUNTEER NATURALISTS

For nearly two decades, Seattle Parks and Recreation's Environmental Learning Centers have trained volunteers to serve as naturalists and educators in our parks and greenspaces.

From forests to beaches, from the Duwamish River Valley to Discovery Park, volunteers lead unique environmental education and natural interpretation programs for diverse audiences.

Being an Urban Forest Educator is just one way you can serve—many other optional opportunities to continue your education and deepen your service exist via other branches of the Seattle Volunteer Naturalist Program.