Education - Nature Interpreter

Purpose: To provide engaging nature-based talks and walks to visitors of Allan Brooks Nature Centre; as a Nature Interpreter share information and facts about the local environment and help our visitors get excited about the nature around them

Responsibilities:

- Lead groups (of all age ranges) on guided trail walks along our grassland trail (~30 - 60 minutes)
- Present interpretive talks on local wildlife and ecosystems, i.e., black bears, marmots, snakes of the okanagan, grasslands, invasive plant species, etc. (~30 minutes)
- Interact with ABNC guests and visitors
- Share knowledge and passion for nature and the environment with visitors to ABNC
- Assist staff or other volunteers as required
- Track and submit volunteer hours

Qualifications (skills, abilities, knowledge, experience, attitude):

- No previous skills or experience required; just a willingness to learn and share knowledge about local wildlife and ecosystems in this area (All required information will be provided)
- Comfortable interacting with people of all ages, particularly with children
- Comfortable talking to people, particularly in larger groups
- Willing to learn and share knowledge of the nature in this area
- Positive and enthusiastic attitude

Time commitment:

- Interpretive talks will be scheduled twice a week (i.e., Thursdays and Saturdays at 1:00 - 1:30 pm)
- Guided Trail walks will be scheduled twice a week (i.e., Tuesdays and Fridays at 11:00 - 12:00 pm)
- Guided trail walks will also be available for bookings
- Volunteer is not required to lead all interpretive talks or all guided trail walks

Training:

- Attend volunteer orientation session
- Training will be provided
- All learning materials will be provided in advance
- Training for this opportunity will be provided by the Education Coordinator/ Lead Nature Interpreter

Work location/conditions:

- Uneven terrain, gravel, and grasslands
- Weather conditions (e.g., rain, heat, wind, etc.)
- Environmental conditions (e.g., smoke)
- Onsite at ABNC
- Interpretive talks and guided trail walks run rain or shine

Your Needs: dress for the weather

Special resources: props to be used during guided trail talks

Potential Risks: weather and environmental conditions, encounters with snakes, spiders and other insects

Immediate Benefits:

- Opportunities to meet and to network with fellow volunteers
- Learn about the history of the region, the geography and the plants and animals of the North Okanagan
- Build on your existing abilities, education and/or public speaking skills
- Satisfaction in knowing that you are making a positive impact by promoting enjoyment of nature and increasing awareness of habitat conservation
- Refreshments and snacks

Benefits After 15 Volunteer Hours:

- ABNC t-shirt
- ABNC membership valued at $30.00
- 10% discount at ABNC gift shop and ABNC workshops
- Invitation to volunteer appreciation events
- Letter of recommendation