

Building and Grounds - Guardians of the Grasslands

Purpose: To protect and maintain the endangered grasslands around the Nature Centre and to educate visitors about the importance of grasslands as a local ecosystem

Responsibilities:

- Identify, weed and dispose invasive plants
- Acquire and plant native seeds and plants (when available)
- Tool management: use tools and return tools to appropriate place in tool shed; inform staff of repairs required and suggestions of new tools needed; lock the tool shed when finished
- Willingness to share knowledge of invasive weeds with volunteers and visitors to the Centre
- Assist staff or other volunteers as required
- Track and submit volunteer hours

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

- No previous skills or experience required; just a willingness to learn about and identify invasive plants, as well as use of gardening equipment
- Ability to choose and use appropriate gardening tools (e.g., clippers, hoe, shovels, rakes, etc.) to remove invasive plants
- Able to do outdoor manual labour

Time commitment:

- Invasive weed management begins in April and runs through to September/October
- 1-2 times per week; 2-3 hours per day

Training:

- Attend volunteer orientation session
- Training will be provided as needed
- Resources will be provided (invasive weeds management calendar, fact sheets, field guide for invasive weeds)
- Work with an experienced volunteer who can answer questions

Work location/conditions:

- Uneven terrain, gravel, and grasslands
- Weather conditions (e.g., rain, heat, wind, etc.)
- Environmental conditions (e.g., smoke)

Your Needs: sunscreen, water, hat, heavy duty gloves (gloves are also available at the Centre); consider wearing long sleeves and pants and sturdy shoes/boots

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
- Field Guide to Noxious Weeds and Other Selected Invasive Plants
- Satisfaction in knowing that you are making a positive impact on 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