

Volunteer Position Description

NATURALIST ASSISTANT

Larimer County Department of Natural Resources
1800 S. County Road 31, Loveland CO 80537
(970) 619-4570 | larimer.org/nrvolunteer



Position Overview:

Naturalist Assistants support trained volunteer Naturalists, as well as Natural Resources staff and representatives from our partner organizations during a variety of educational programs. Larimer County offers a variety of programming designed to educate and engage people of all ages and backgrounds, including guided hikes, school field trips, campground programs, outreach tables, and youth programs. Naturalist Assistants can assist during whichever programs work best for their schedule and interests.

Overall Duties:

- Attend a LCDNR Volunteer Orientation session (required to become a Naturalist Assistant)
- Represent Larimer County in a friendly, professional manner
- Communicate general feedback, ideas, or concerns to the Education Program
- Abide by all rules, regulations, and safety guidelines while on Larimer County property

Program-Specific Duties:

- **Guided Hikes:** Be friendly and engaging towards program participants to help ensure everyone feels welcome, help answer questions and/or relay questions to the hike leader.
- **School Field Trips:** Assist in keeping program on schedule, ensuring children stay on trail and follow other rules and regulations, and help Naturalists with any needs that arise.
- **Outreach Tables:** Engage with recreational users at trailheads on a variety of topics such as rattlesnake safety and trail etiquette. Naturalist Assistants working trailhead programs will be interacting with the public and should familiarize themselves with the table topic, though more complex questions can be relayed to the Naturalist or staff person leading the table.
- **Campground Programs:** Assist the program presenter as needed with the set-up and facilitation of their program.

Schedule:

- Naturalist Assistants are welcome to join any portion(s) of the spring Naturalist training
- Naturalists Assistants can assist whichever programs work best for their schedule/interests
 - School Field Trips take place on weekday mornings in the spring and fall
 - Outreach Tables take place year-round but mostly on summer weekend mornings
 - Campground Programs almost always take place on Saturday evenings
 - Guided Hikes take place year-round and are scheduled by the lead Naturalist

Qualifications:

- Ability to communicate clearly and comfortably with visitors of all ages and backgrounds
- Friendly, courteous, and respectful to staff and park visitors
- Ability to provide your own reliable transportation
- Willingness to work outside in variable temperatures and weather conditions. Certain programs will require 2-3 miles of hiking.
- All Naturalists Assistants must agree to a criminal background check
- Understanding and acceptance of the potential risks for this volunteer position such as inclement weather, dangerous wildlife encounters, and unpleasant interactions with members of the public

The Larimer County Natural Resources Volunteer Program is not obligated to provide a placement, nor are you obligated to accept the position offered. Opportunities for volunteers are provided without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex or age. Larimer County is committed to equality of opportunity.