

Things to know about Nature Walk



Thank you for your interest in the Nature Walk youth volunteer program! We are looking for 15-20 participants to join the program in 2019.

Nature Walk is a Como Park Zoo and Conservatory Interpretive program offered over the summer for **incoming 7th graders through incoming 12th graders** with a strong interest in the natural world and a desire to share information with the public.

To be considered for the program, students MUST:

- Submit an application
- Secure two references (must be submitted by application deadline)
- Attend an information session with a parent/guardian
- Complete an interview and give an oral presentation with Como staff
- Be available to attend required program training sessions
- Be able to fulfill the minimum shift commitments required of Nature Walk volunteers

At the mandatory information session attended by applicants and their parent/guardian, students will sign-up for an interview time-slot:

1. Applicants can choose between two information session dates:

- Wednesday, February 20th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- or-
- Wednesday, March 13th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm

2. At the information session, applicants will sign-up for an interview and oral presentation time slot (20 minutes). Interviews/presentations times will be scheduled on:

- Sunday, March 31st between 12:00pm and 5:00pm
- or-
- Wednesday, April 3rd between 4:00pm and 7:30pm

Applicant references, interviews and oral presentation scores will be used to determine the selection.

*****Acceptance letters and training session sign-ups will be sent out after the interview process has concluded*****

If selected, Nature Walk volunteers **MUST** fulfill the training requirements. They will be required to:

- o **Attend Nature Walk training sessions**

- Choose **ONE** date below for **EACH** Nature Walk training session. You have two options for each training. You **MUST** attend one session of training 1, training 2 and training 3 to be involved in Nature Walk.
 - **Training 1:** Saturday, May 4th **OR** Saturday, May 11th 12:00pm to 5:00pm
 - **Training 2:** Sunday, May 5th **OR** Saturday, May 18th 12:00pm to 5:00pm
 - **Training 3:** Saturday, June 1st **OR** Sunday, June 2nd 12:00pm to 5:00pm
- **Attend a giraffe feeding station training session**
 - As part of the Nature Walk program, participants help visitors feed lettuce to our giraffe! This training allows Nature Walkers to meet other staff and volunteers helping with the feeding station. You will need to choose **ONE** date below:
 - Saturday, May 4th 8:30am to 11:00am
 - Saturday, May 11th 8:30am to 11:00am

Once trained, Nature Walk volunteers need to complete:

- **A minimum of 15 shifts during the summer of 2019**
 - The 2019 Nature Walk season runs from Monday, June 10th through Wednesday, August 21st. The shifts are as follows:
 - Monday and Friday from 9:30am to 2:30pm
 - Wednesday from 9:30am to 4:30pm
 - Nature Walk volunteers will be able to sign up for summer shift times after completion of the first training session
- **2 special events during the 2019-2020 school year**
 - Most special events take place one weekend a month from September 2019 to April 2020. Volunteer Services will notify you of upcoming opportunities.
 - Nature Walkers are also needed for one-time events such as Sunset Affair, Blooming Butterflies opening and Bouquets
 - The shifts are as follows:
 - Saturday 9:45am to 1:00pm **OR** 12:45pm to 4:00pm
 - Sunday 9:45am to 1:00pm **OR** 12:45pm to 4:00pm
 - One-time event shifts usually run from 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Interested? Volunteer Services needs to receive your application and references by March 6th, 2019

If you have any questions about the program or the application process, please contact us at 651-487-8287 or comovolunteers@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Thank you!

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory Volunteer Services