



BLM Campbell Creek Science Center

Frequently Asked Questions about the Volunteer Program

The Campbell Creek Science Center could not operate without the generosity of our dedicated volunteers. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions we receive about our volunteer program

What are the volunteer opportunities at the Science Center?

Our volunteers help us in many ways:

- Educational Program Volunteers serve as assistants or instructors for the Science Center's many educational programs. They also help create and maintain the props and areas used for educational activities.
- Backyard Discoveries Program Volunteers assist with the butterfly count, creek bioassessments, weed pulls, and gardening.
- Administrative Volunteers answer phones, take reservations, respond to visitor questions, and maintain the library.
- Special Events Volunteers assist with trail work and gardening projects during National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day and they run education stations or help in other ways at other special events.
- Friends Group members serve on the Friends Board, promote Science Center programs, work with community groups and individuals to acquire donations, write thank you letters, and manage the affairs of this nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Who can volunteer?

Individuals and groups may work on volunteer projects at the Science Center.

How old do you have to be to volunteer?

For our special work events, such as National Public Lands Day and National Trails Day, anyone can volunteer. However, everyone under 18 must be accompanied by a guardian or be part of a designated group. Groups must pre-register under a Group Volunteer Services Agreement and include permission slips for all volunteers under 18. Groups that work at other times on special projects such as gardening, revegetation, or trail maintenance, may also include minors as long as a Group Volunteer Services Agreement is coordinated in advance and includes permission slips for anyone under 18. It is also possible for minors ages 14 through 17 to hold volunteer positions at the Science Center. However, because these volunteers require more direct adult supervision, such volunteer assignments are determined on a case-by-case basis. These individuals work under an Individual Volunteer Services Agreement that must be signed by a parent or guardian.

Can I volunteer if I am not a citizen of the United States?

Yes, as long as you have a visa and your legal length of stay in the United States has not expired.

How long do volunteer assignments last?

Some volunteer projects last for just a few hours, such as work projects on National Public Lands Day and National Trails Day. Other volunteer work may take place over several days or on a recurring basis for longer periods of time.

What kind of paperwork is required?

All volunteers must complete a volunteer services agreement. Individuals complete an Individual Volunteer Services Agreement; groups complete a Group Volunteer Services Agreement. The agreement stipulates the work that the volunteer will perform, defines the time period over which they will work, and includes any special conditions that apply.

Do I need a background check?

Criminal background checks may be required, depending on the nature of the work. Criminal background checks are required for volunteer instructors and any volunteer needing access to a computer. All fees for a background check will be paid by BLM.

How much training will I receive?

Volunteers at events such as National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day receive safety briefings and training related to the tools they'll be using that day. Other volunteer positions may require additional training, such as bear and moose safety, computer security, or first aid.

Will I be working with other people or by myself?

This will depend on the project. Most projects involve working with others, including projects completed on National Public Lands Day and National Trails Day, assisting with the front desk, and being a volunteer instructor. Many other projects, especially ones conducted over several months, may involve a lot of independent work. In all cases, however, volunteers receive guidance from a volunteer project supervisor who monitors work and offers feedback.

Will I be working inside, outside, or both?

This will depend on the project. Volunteer projects may be entirely outside, entirely indoors, or require work both inside and outside.

Do you provide housing?

We do not have any volunteer housing available.

Can I get school credit for my service?

Many volunteers at the Science Center have earned high school or college credit. Students are responsible for ensuring that their work at the Science Center counts for school credit.

How do I sign up to volunteer?

If you are interested in volunteering for National Trails Day or National Public Lands Day, all you have to do is arrive during volunteer check in, complete the volunteer form, and sign up for a particular work project. For all other volunteer assignments, please contact the Science Center at (907) 267-1247 to discuss your interests and availability and our current needs.