



ALBUQUERQUE BIOLOGICAL PARK CONSERVATION CAMP COUNSELOR BIOPARK EDUCATION VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION 2009

PURPOSE

Conservation Camp Counselors are teen volunteers who assist with Camp BioPark at the Rio Grande Zoo, Albuquerque Aquarium, Rio Grande Botanic Garden and Tingley Beach. Conservation Camp Counselors work with BioPark Education staff and teachers to help children discover nature.

Camp BioPark includes 12 different week-long (Monday through Friday) day camps. The camp classes help young people, ages five to fourteen, develop a better understanding of the earth and ways to take care of it. All programs emphasize conservation and use the BioPark's plants, animals and exhibits as teaching tools and the BioPark grounds as a living classroom.

REQUIREMENTS

Anyone over 16 years old is eligible to become a Conservation Camp Counselor. Abilities needed to become a successful BioPark volunteer include enthusiasm for teaching conservation, patience, maturity, a strong sense of responsibility, dependability, and a willingness to learn. In addition, Counselors need to be task-oriented, take direction well, show initiative, and have the ability to interact and communicate effectively with children and young adults. The required knowledge is taught. As a safety precaution, all applicants are required to submit to a City of Albuquerque background check before they can begin volunteering.

DUTIES

Conservation Camp Counselors will assist camp teachers with the hands-on activities, games and art projects designed for each individual program; assist in setup and cleanup for the program; help maintain an enjoyable, yet orderly, learning environment; and act to ensure the safety of all Camp BioPark participants at all times. Volunteers will be required to learn about the animals, plants, and habitats relevant to Camp BioPark. Counselors may also be asked to perform other miscellaneous jobs as the need arises.

MINIMUM TIME

Conservation Camp Counselors must commit to at least two full weeks of camp during the course of the summer in order to receive recognition. Camp BioPark programs begin June 8 and continue through July 31, with no camp the week of July 4. Please refer to the Camp BioPark brochure for full descriptions and schedules for each camp.

If you assist with an all-day camp, your shift will be from 8:15-4:15. If you assist with a half-day camp, your shift will be 8:15-12:15 or 12:15-4:15. Counselors should bring their own lunch, or be prepared to purchase from the camp menu.

TRAINING

Conservation Camp Counselors must attend an orientation on Wednesday, June 3, from 9:30am-noon at the Aquarium/Garden Education Building. Most of your training will be conducted on the job by the summer camp teacher with whom you are paired.

UNIFORM

A nametag and one uniform shirt will be provided. (Additional shirts can be purchased for \$5 each.) The rest of your attire should be neat and professional. Walking shoes, hats and sunscreen are highly recommended. No short shorts, please. Remember, you represent the BioPark when you volunteer, and your dress must comply with BioPark standards.

BENEFITS

BioPark Education Volunteers have the opportunity to do meaningful and gratifying education work with thousands of visitors to the BioPark, an important intangible benefit. Tangible benefits are also available. Upon completion of the training and a commitment to give the minimum number of hours, BioPark Education Volunteers receive an identification badge, which allows free regular admission to all BioPark facilities (Zoo, Aquarium, and Botanic Garden). While on duty, volunteers receive a discount at the food and gift concession stands.

Conservation Camp Counselors who fulfill the minimum time commitment will receive certificates of recognition, appropriate for use on resumes and college and job applications. Letters of recommendation will or may also be written for those teens with a record of excellent service to the BioPark. Summer volunteers get together on Wednesday, August 5, from 3:30-5:00pm at the Zoo to celebrate the summer, and volunteers who have worked at least two weeks will be recognized.

COSTS

Nothing! The BioPark is happy to have you as a volunteer.

STRUCTURE

Camp Counselors report to the Summer Teacher and/or Education Coordinator they are working with that week. The teacher reports to the site facilitator - Allyson Zahm at the Zoo or Dave Karrmann at the Aquarium/Garden. Cathy Wylie, BioPark Volunteer/Program Specialist, is also available to provide assistance.

HOW TO APPLY

Fill out the attached volunteer information and contract/release forms, and bring to training. Once your application is received, you will be asked to complete a separate background check form.

When applying, choose the Camp BioPark classes that best fit your interests and your schedule. According to availability and the requests from other Conservation Camp Counselors, we will do our best to match you up with the classes of your choice. Assignment is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

CONTACT

For more information, contact BioPark Education:
(505) 764-6214, Lpowdrell@cabq.gov
www.cabq.gov/biopark



The BioPark is a division of the City of Albuquerque's Cultural Services Department. For general inquiries, please call 311 (Relay NM, TTY 1-800-659-8331, or 711).