

# “Science Shorts” Docent

## Lead a Nature Lesson @ the Swaner EcoCenter

**Purpose:** Docents are responsible for guiding visitors through a hands-on lesson about the wildlife on the Preserve.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Educate visitors about various topics related to wildlife on the Swaner Preserve
- Engage and guide children with hands-on activities related to the topic
- Simple set-up and clean-up

**Contact Person:**

Ashleigh Hammond, Volunteer Coordinator;  
[ashleigh.hammond@usu.edu](mailto:ashleigh.hammond@usu.edu) or 435.649.1767

**Length of Appointment:**

Minimum three-month time commitment:

Following training and shadowing, volunteers may be assigned to an additional three-month period where he/she will work independently in the position.

**Time Commitment:**

- Minimum one shift per month.
- Shifts will eventually take place every Saturday from 11am-1pm, with a half-hour on either end for set-up and clean-up. As we begin this program we will be flexible with our volunteers on dates but each lesson will last between 1.5-2hours.

**Qualifications:**

- Must be a high school student or older. (Exceptions may be made for qualified middle schoolers)
- Must pass a background check
- Must have some knowledge of and interest in nature/natural sciences
- Enjoy working with children
- Good communications skills
- Pleasant manner, patient, and dependable
- It is very important for this volunteer to be comfortable talking to and teaching visitors.

**Support:**

- Prior to training, docent candidates must complete our Self-Guided Orientation of the Swaner Preserve & EcoCenter
- Training includes the following:
  - a. Initial meeting with Swaner staff during EcoCenter hours to go over curriculum
  - b. On-the-job training with Swaner staff during one 11 to 1 p.m. shift
  - c. Receipt of instructional materials

**Benefits:**

- Invitation to events or activities for volunteers
- Rewards for number of hours of service completed
- Experience working with a great team of staff and volunteers + develop new skills
- Opportunity to make a difference and have a positive impact in our community!

While we consider our Saturday Docent to be of utmost importance in helping us to achieve our mission of educating visitors and connecting them with nature, visitor traffic to our EcoCenter ebbs and flows, with busy seasons and not-so-busy seasons. In the event that there is downtime, please feel free to bring a book or other task to occupy yourself.