

Volunteer

# Naturalist Assistant

Position Description



Volunteer Naturalist Assistants share their enthusiasm and passion for nature by hosting fun and engaging educational programs at Larimer County Department of Natural Resources parks and open spaces.

Larimer County Department of Natural Resources  
1800 S. County Road 31, Loveland CO 80537  
(970) 619-4552 | [larimer.org/nrvolunteer](http://larimer.org/nrvolunteer)



# Volunteer Position Description

## Naturalist Assistant

*Our mission is to establish, protect and manage significant regional parks and open lands providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities and stewardship of natural resources values. We are committed to fostering a sense of community and appreciation for the natural and agricultural heritage of Larimer County for present and future generations.*

### Position Summary:

Larimer County Department of Natural Resources (LCDNR) offers a variety of programming designed to educate and engage people of all ages and backgrounds. Naturalist Assistants actively support education without specialized training or experience. They act as welcoming hosts at support educational programs by greeting participants, answering general questions, and assisting program leads with group management, props, and activities. Naturalist Assistants also host outreach stations inspiring curiosity of the natural world and foster stewardship of our natural resources.

### Benefits:

- Be an integral part of promoting LCDNR's mission, enhancing the visitor experience, and fostering stewardship values
- Learn from experienced staff and volunteers
- Gain experience in environmental education, natural & cultural history, & group management
- Opportunities to expand your knowledge
- Participate in fun volunteer appreciation and social events
- Complete 20+ volunteer hours in a calendar year & receive a LCDNR parking pass



### Requirements:

- Enjoys meeting & interacting with people
- Interested in natural & cultural history & making a connection with nature
- Good communication skills both written and verbal
- Organized, detail-oriented, flexible and a team-player
- Passionate about learning & enthusiastic about sharing your knowledge with others
- Experience and comfort with speaking to and leading groups of people of all ages and backgrounds
- Friendly, courteous, respectful
- Provide your own reliable transportation
- Willingness to work outside in variable temperatures and weather conditions. Some programs require 2-3 miles of hiking
- Understanding and acceptance of potential risk for this volunteer position such as inclement weather, dangerous wildlife encounters, and unpleasant interactions with members of the public

### Duties:

- Naturalist Assistants are required to assist with a minimum of four (4) programs per year
- Be friendly and engaging towards program participants to ensure everyone feels welcome, help answer questions, and/or relay questions to program lead
- Assist in keeping program on schedule, ensure group stays on trail and follows regulations
- Coordinate with program leads to prepare for a program including set-up or facilitation of the program
- Assist with collecting, maintaining, and returning of program supplies
- At outreach stations, engage with visitors at trailheads & reservoirs using established lesson plans & LCDNR stewardship messaging (topics include rattlesnake safety, trail etiquette, heat safety, etc.)
- Use [offeror.larimer.org](http://offeror.larimer.org), LCDNR's volunteer software, to sign-up for programs. Check the calendar for upcoming opportunities
- Communicate with the Education staff including program feedback, ideas, or concerns
- Represent Larimer County in a friendly, professional manner
- Know LCDNR Emergency Response Procedures and be prepared to contact help if there is an urgent incident during your program (participant injury, unruly camper, weather emergency, etc.)
- Abide by all rules, regulations, and safety guidelines while on Larimer County property

### Training:

- New Volunteer Orientation ( 1 hour)
- Outreach station training (1hour)
- Naturalist Assistants are welcome to join any portion(s) of the Naturalist training which takes place in the spring. Encouraged but not required
  - 3 weekday evenings (4 hours each)
  - 1 Saturday (8 hours)

### Schedule:

- Naturalist Assistants can assist with whichever programs work best for their schedules and interests
  - **School Field Trips:** weekday mornings in the spring and fall
  - **Outreach stations:** weekend mornings in March - October
  - **Campground Programs:** Saturday evenings
  - **Skygazing programs:** weekend & weekday evenings after dark
  - **Guided Hikes:** occur year-round and are scheduled by the lead Naturalist



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### Next Steps....

1. Submit a Volunteer application
2. Schedule an interview with Volunteer Engagement staff
3. Attend Training
  - a. New Volunteer Orientation
  - b. Outreach station training
  - c. Naturalist Training sessions (not required)
4. Start volunteering!

### Questions?

Contact Julie Enderby  
Education & Volunteer Specialist  
970-619-4552, [jenderby@larimer.org](mailto:jenderby@larimer.org)

*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.*