

VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

POSITION

JOB TITLE:	Nature Team	DIRECT SUPPORTS:	Curator of Natural History; Associate Curator of Visitor and Volunteer Engagement
DEPARTMENT:	Natural History	DIRECTLY SUPPORTS:	N/A

VOLUNTEER JOB SUMMARY

Nature Team volunteers interpret topics related to the High Desert’s natural history, including the region’s plants, fungi, climate, geological features, ecosystems, and human interactions within those ecosystems. Core members of the Nature Team undergo interpretive training to provide the Nature Walk, which is a daily twenty-minute guided talk that takes visitors outside and introduces them to the flora surrounding the High Desert Museum. Nature Team volunteers also assist with various special events including the monthly Natural History Pub, exhibit openings, educational programs, weed pulling on the grounds, and other initiatives as needed. The Nature Team is ideal for volunteers who enjoy interacting with adults and children, feel comfortable speaking in front of audiences, and have an enthusiasm for the region’s natural history.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (in order of priority with the percentage of time spent on each)

75%	Daily Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Develop and lead a twenty-minute interpretive talk that introduces Museum visitors to the flora surrounding the High Desert Museum</i>• <i>Collaborate with Museum curators to develop the volunteer’s Nature Walk interpretive approach and actively engage in coaching and training processes</i>
10%	Research & Training <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Attend required trainings on interpretive techniques and content</i>• <i>Read assigned materials and self-educate to stay current on content and issues relevant to the natural history of the High Desert region</i>• <i>Work with curators to update Nature Walk interpretation when new information is added</i>
10%	Special Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Assist the Curator of Natural History as needed for special initiatives. These initiatives may include natural history interpretation at special events, checking in RSVPs for evening programs, writing blog posts, or research</i>
5%	Additional Duties <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The volunteer must use the online Galaxy software to self-schedule Nature Walk shifts and check-in before their shift</i>• <i>Contribute to and support the Museum’s DEAI initiatives</i>

QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION/ CERTIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A professional background in outdoor education, K-12 education, & speaking in front of public audiences is helpful
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- Certified Interpretive Guide preferred but not required

EXPERIENCE

- A demonstrated interest in the High Desert’s natural history and an ability to self-educate about environmental issues facing the region’s ecosystems

SKILLS/
ABILITIES

- Public speaking
- An ability to engage and educate visitors of all ages

PHYSICAL
ELEMENTS

- This position requires moderate walking outdoors for periods of about thirty minutes
- The Nature Walk is held outdoors and may occur during inclement weather including rain, snow, heat, or cold.

EQUIPMENT
USE

- Microphone, computer

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above volunteer job description in its entirety and am capable of performing all of the stated requirements.

Employee Name

Signature

Date