



# Effie Yeaw Nature Center

## *Volunteer Opportunities:* **Tour Docent and Naturalists**

### **Objective:**

The Nature Center is one of the few places children can have a "hands-on" experience with nature while being introduced to its beauty and diversity. It is essential that children realize the importance of conserving and preserving our natural resources before they become decision-making adults. Volunteer Naturalists have the opportunity to share their love and knowledge of nature with hundreds of children that visit the center.

### **Responsibilities:**

Volunteer Naturalists assist in the presentation of tours for elementary school children. The tour themes are based on the California State Science Framework. Because we believe that children learn through doing, all tours include the use of live and/or mounted animal specimens in addition to a nature walk. Docents introduce the live animals to the children and lead up to 18 children on nature walks.

### **Commitment:**

After training, a minimum of two hours every other week on a weekday, either at 10:00 a.m. or Noon, for a minimum of eight months.

### **Qualifications:**

- Love of nature and the outdoors
- Enjoy working with children
- Able to maintain discipline in a small group of children
- Physically able to hike on trails
- No unreasonable fear of live animals
- Dependable and responsible
- Volunteers 18 years old and older must be free from any arrest or conviction of any felony or misdemeanor offense involving violence, sexual or physical abuse of any adult or child, or any felony narcotic offense.
- Volunteers are required to submit a set of fingerprints, before their first day of work, in order for the Parks Department to obtain related criminal records. The Volunteer Coordinator will provide information on how to meet this requirement.

### **Training and Preparation:**

Eight weeks of ongoing training including techniques for working with children, animal handling, and the natural and cultural history of the American River Parkway.

### **Evaluation:**

School Tour evaluations are completed by the teachers and are available to the docents. Volunteers are also encouraged to meet with the Volunteer Coordinator or their supervisors whenever necessary to discuss situations which may arise.

### **Supervisor:**

Volunteer Coordinator and staff Naturalists for assigned school tours.