

## Job Description – Volunteer Naturalist Assistant

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**Work Location:** Eldorado Canyon State Park

**Staff Contact:** Cassandra Flowers

**Phone:** 303-494-3943 **E-mail:** [eldorado.park@state.co.us](mailto:eldorado.park@state.co.us)

**Supervisor:** Great Outdoors Colorado Seasonal Interpreter and Interpretive Program Supervisor

### Time Commitment Expected:

- ❖ 6 Hours per month required (2 hour shift minimum)
- ❖ May through September shifts required
- ❖ Weekday and Saturday shifts preferred

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### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

If you are a teacher, interpreter, or otherwise love to talk about nature and all its wonders to people of diverse ages and backgrounds, then this is your ideal position! Eldorado Canyon's interpretive program consists mainly of school and summer camp groups that sign up for a particular education program during weekdays from May – September. We also host an award-winning Junior Ranger program at 10:00am and 2:00 pm Saturdays, June – August. This position provides much-needed help to the interpretive staff in planning and presenting educational programs.

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### RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

- ❖ Assist interpreter with program set-up, including confirming program requests and preparing necessary program materials
- ❖ Accompany interpreter on programs and assist as needed/requested
- ❖ Volunteers with previous interpretive training and experience may be asked to develop and present new programs and help expand Eldorado's interpretive efforts

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### QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED

- ❖ Must be at least 16 years old
- ❖ Willingness to work in a variety of settings, terrain, and weather conditions, with people of diverse backgrounds and ages
- ❖ Previous interpretive experience in a park environment preferred
- ❖ Familiarity with Eldorado Canyon State Park and its natural/cultural history a plus
- ❖ Dedicated to providing environmental interpretation and education for Eldorado's visitors
- ❖ Committed to Colorado State Parks' and Eldorado Canyon State Park's mission and goals

- ❖ Educating visitors on park regulations and stewardship principles
- ❖ Informing guests of programs/events happening in the park
- ❖ DEPENDABILITY and excel at working individually and as a team member
- ❖ Outstanding decision-making skills and judgment
- ❖ Ability to hike trails easy to difficult in degree

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## TRAINING AND/OR PREPARATION REQUIRED

- ❖ Training will be provided on-site by interpretive staff
- ❖ Must create a user profile on the Colorado State Parks Volunteer Database in order to track hours
- ❖ CPR, First Aid, EMT, and/or Wilderness First Responder preferred
- ❖ Public speaking experience highly recommended

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## EVALUATION EXPECTATIONS

- ❖ Volunteers will meet with their supervisors once a month to discuss concerns, report both positive and negative aspects of their experiences, and modify duties if appropriate
- ❖ If a direct meeting cannot occur, the individual will fill out a monthly evaluation form, which the supervisor will address in private with the volunteer if requested or necessary
- ❖ Volunteers that are not reliable, do not carry out their responsibilities or are otherwise unprofessional will be dismissed

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## BENEFITS

- ❖ 48 hours of service earns you a Colorado State Parks volunteer pass, good at all 41 state parks
- ❖ The chance to be a member of a wonderful team and sharing your love of Eldorado Canyon
- ❖ Opportunities to work directly with the Interpretive Supervisor to learn the appropriate techniques of developing and presenting interpretive programs for interested, exceptional volunteers
- ❖ Beginning and/or end of season appreciation barbecue
- ❖ Continuing education opportunities possible

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## OTHER COMMENTS:

There is limited enrollment for the Naturalist Assistant Program – only 5 applicants will be accepted. An interview and background check are required. Applications are available at Eldorado Canyon State Park. Call (303) 494-3943 or e-mail [eldorado.park@state.co.us](mailto:eldorado.park@state.co.us) for more information.