



Youth Roles at Columbia Springs

We bring over 7,000 kids to our site each year on our field trip program. But there are many other ways for kids to participate in our natural area and programs! One way we love to engage youth is through volunteer activities. If you have a child or youth that is interested in volunteering with us, please read below for ideas and contact us with any questions.

Infants

You are welcome to volunteer with your infant, but please be aware that many of our volunteer roles are outdoors, physical, and 2+ hours. If you need to step away to nurse or care for your child, simply tell your contact or supervisor.

Ages 2-7

We typically do not encourage kids under the age of seven to attend our service events, simply because we often have volunteers engaged in physical projects that require using large tools. However, there are some ways kids under the age of seven can support us:

- Contact us prior to a service event and line up a project appropriate for your child's ability and age. Examples include:
 - o Clean picnic tables
 - o Pull weeds from a flower bed
 - o Clean interpretive signs
 - o Pick up trash around the park
 - o Plant seeds
 - o Other simple tasks
- Bring 'thank you' snacks for volunteers
- Bring 'thank you' cards for volunteers

Ages 7 – 15 & Ages 16 – 17

Youth ages 7-15 are welcome to volunteer with us, as long as they have a parent or legal guardian present with them. Teens that are 16 or 17 can volunteer on their own, as long as they have a parent or guardian's signed permission on our liability waiver. Here are a few ways this age group can be involved:

- Join us at a public stewardship event.
- Plan a small service event for your group or club
- Fulfill your school service project requirements by planning your own service project
- Lead a small activity or craft at one of our special events
- 'Adopt' a small project or trail
- Apply to join us as an intern. Interns have helped with the following:
 - o Salmon in the Classroom
 - o Park Maintenance, Invasive Species Removal, Restoration
 - o Summer Camp
 - o Field Trips & Education
 - o Marketing & Social Media

For more information, please contact the
Volunteer Manager at 360-882-0936 ext. 222 or volunteering@columbiasprings.org
Visit our website at www.columbiasprings.org/volunteer