Whether or not you have experience working with kids or in nature, you can grow your skills while volunteering as a Jr Naturalist at Nature Day Camp. If you are a responsible, energetic, and patient teen with an interest in nature, education, and child development, you’re encouraged to apply!

As a Jr Naturalist, you will:
• Share your curiosity and enthusiasm for learning with the campers.
• Gain experience helping campers with nature-focused games, crafts, and activities.
• Practice developing supportive relationships with campers and other staff members.
• Learn about our parks and the natural world!

Applications accepted through May 31 - Registration begins February 24

Teens must apply first! Application MUST include answers to all the required questions and will be accepted through May 31, 2020. Registration will begin on February 24, 2020. **Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and spots will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.**

**HOW TO APPLY - fill out all application documents below and then either:**
• Save .pdf as “Your Name Jr Naturalist” and email to yael.warshai@portlandoregon.gov
• Share a Google Doc with yael.warshai@portlandoregon.gov OR
• Send hard copies by Postal Mail to - Attn: Jr Naturalist Program
Portland Parks & Recreation
2909 SW 2nd Ave
Portland, OR 97201
All accepted applicants volunteer for two weeks of camp, AND must attend one day of training!
Please check your calendar carefully to make sure you are available for the required days.

Jr Naturalist Training Day Options (14 spots available each day)
June 23 (Tu), 9:30am - 3:30pm, Mt. Tabor Park
June 24 (W), 9:30am - 3:30pm, Mt. Tabor Park
June 25 (Th), 9:30am - 3:30pm, Mt. Tabor Park
July 15 (W), 9:30am-3:30pm, Mt. Tabor Park (If volunteering between July 20 - Aug 21)
July 22 (W), 9:30am-3:30pm, Sellwood Park/Oaks Bottom (If volunteering between July 27 - Aug 21)

Available Weeks of Nature Day Camp (Choose two)
Volunteer commitment is 8:00am-3:30pm Mondays, 8:15am-3:30pm Tuesday-Friday

Please keep this page for your records!

Volunteer Jr Naturalist Position Description

Qualifications
• Must be between 13 and 17 years old by June 1, 2020.
• No experience required, however, Jr Naturalists are required to attend one day of training. (Available training dates: June 23, June 24, June 25, July 15, or July 22)
• All teens who apply should have an interest in and enthusiasm for nature, have patience with children, and be open to learning new skills.

Specific Roles and Responsibilities
• Play, explore, and be curious about nature with campers!
• Help naturalists organize campers and keep them as safe as possible.
• Help campers as needed during games, crafts, and activities.
• Help campers stay focused and transition from activity to activity, and location to location.
• Sign-in to camp on time each morning and sign-out each afternoon.
• Pay attention to your own needs throughout the day and communicate them clearly to others.
• Listen to naturalists and lead staff and communicate with them kindly and respectfully.

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June 29 - July 2 @ Sellwood Park/Oaks Bottom (No Camp July 3rd)
    July 6 - 10 @ Hoyt Arboretum
    July 13 - 17 @ Mt. Tabor Park
July 20 - 24 @ Sellwood Park/Oaks Bottom
    July 27 - 31 @ Mt. Tabor Park
    Aug 3 - 7 @ Hoyt Arboretum
    Aug 10 - 14 @ Mt. Tabor Park
    Aug 17 - 21 @ Mt. Tabor Park
Applications must be submitted to our office first! Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis.

REGISTRATION BEGINS FEBRUARY 24. APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL MAY 31.

Return by postal mail to Attn: Jr Naturalist Program, 2909 SW 2nd Ave, Portland OR 97201
OR save .pdf as “Your Name Jr Naturalist” and email to yael.warshai@portlandoregon.gov
OR share a google doc with yael.warshai@portlandoregon.gov

TEENS MUST FILL OUT THIS PAGE ON THEIR OWN.
(Parents, your section is on page 4)

Hi! We’re excited that you are interested in volunteering as a Jr Naturalist with our Nature Day Camp program! We ask that you fill out this volunteer application and send it back using the options above. Please be honest when answering the questions. If you do not have experience working with children, but you really like to hang out with them, that’s okay! Just answer the questions to best of your ability, and we’ll help train you so you feel more confident as a volunteer.

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**Teen’s First Name:** ______________________________   **Teen’s Last Name:** ______________________________

Which gender pronoun do you use?  □ he/him  □ she/her  □ they/them  □ (_______ /_______)

Date of birth _____ / _____ / __________   Age on June 1st, 2020 ___________

**What is the best way to get in touch with you?** □ Email □ Home Phone □ Text □ Cell □ Regular Mail

**Teen’s Address:** ________________________________

City: _________________________   State:_________   Zip:__________________

**Teen’s e-mail:** ___________________________________________ @ ____________________________

*(If you list an email, we will use it to connect with you before and during the summer, so please check it!)*

**Teen’s cell number (if you have one)** _______________________   Does it receive texts?  □ Yes □ No

Alternate Phone: ___________________ (This is the # of a:  □ Friend □ Parent/Guardian □ Relative □ Home Phone)

**Parent(s) / Guardian(s) will be contacted first if there is an emergency. Please list their information below:**

Name(s) of Parent(s) / Guardian(s): ________________________________

Phone Number of Parent(s) / Guardian(s): ________________________________

Do you speak a language other than English at home?  □ Yes □ No   If so, which one(s)? ________________________________

Do you have a volunteer T-shirt from a previous year that you could use again?  □ Yes □ No

If not, do you prefer a unisex or a feminine cut (fem. cut runs smaller)?  □___________ Size: ____ □ Youth □ Adult

T-shirts handed out are short-sleeved. Do you require a long-sleeved T-shirt option?  □ Yes □ No

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TEENS MUST FILL OUT THIS PAGE ON THEIR OWN.

If you are accepted, which age groups would you be interested in working with? Check all that apply:

- Preschool & Kindergarten (Ages 4-6)
- 1st-3rd Grade (Ages 6-8)
- 3rd-5th Grade (Ages 8-11)

Please check the boxes AND answer the questions that apply to you.

- I've been a volunteer at Nature Day Camp in the past. When, where, and what was your week like? __________________________________________________________________________

- I've worked with toddlers, preschoolers, or kindergarteners. When, where, and what was it like? __________________________________________________________________________

- I've worked with children in grades 1-5. When, where, and what was it like? __________________________________________________________________________

- I've taken care of my siblings or other children with no other adults around. When? ________________
  What did you like about it? __________________________________________________________________________
  What was hard about it? __________________________________________________________________________

- I've helped with children's programs at my faith community, a boys/girls club, a sport team, or other youth organization? When? ____________________________________________________________________________________
  What did you like about it? __________________________________________________________________________
  What were your responsibilities? __________________________________________________________________________

- I've worked with children who had unique challenges or special needs. When? ________________
  What did you like about it? __________________________________________________________________________
  What was hard about it? __________________________________________________________________________

- I've taken a CPR/First Aid class within the last two years.* When and where? __________________________________________________________________________

  *Note: CPR certification is NOT required for participation in the Jr Naturalist Program.

- I've participated in Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Boys & Girls Club, Campfire, or a similar youth leadership organization. What did you learn from that experience? __________________________________________________________________________

- I've studied Earth science, physical science, ecology, or biology. When? ________________
  What did you like about it? __________________________________________________________________________

- I like to spend time in nature. What do you like to do? __________________________________________________________________________
1. **First-time Volunteers Only**: Please tell us why you are interested in being a volunteer Jr Naturalist with Nature Day Camp (it’s okay if it’s your first experience like this - we are just curious!)

2. **First-time Volunteers Only**: Tell us about an experience where you were part of a group/team and ran into a challenge or problem, and then found a way to solve the problem. (Examples can be about a group of children or a group of your peers.)

3. **Both First-time and Returning Volunteers**: Please tell us three things you could be taught during a training to help you feel more confident when working with a group of children. (Please be honest! This helps us teach the right tools so volunteers can feel successful during their weeks of camp. If you’re a returning volunteer, what would have been helpful to you in past years?)

4. **Returning Volunteers Only**: Please describe a situation or experience you had over the past year that was meaningful in some way. What did you learn? How might this influence you this summer as a Jr Naturalist?
**TEENS, STOP! PARENTS MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION!**

Parent/Guardian: Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian: Email(s) ____________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian: Phone(s) ____________________________________________________________ Receives texts? □ Yes □ No

Emergency Contact - If we are unable to reach parents/guardians in an emergency, who should we call? 
(Please list someone local - a friend, neighbor, aunt, uncle, grandparent, etc.)

Name ____________________________________ Relationship __________________ Phone __________________

**Medical Emergency Waiver**

In participating in programs sponsored by Portland Parks and Recreation, I hereby acknowledge that I am the legal guardian for the above named participant. I understand there are risks of accidents, resulting in bodily harm to my child named above, arising out of those activities. I hereby acknowledge that my child has the physical capacity reasonably necessary to engage in each activity for which I have enrolled them. However, I do hereby waive all claims, which I might have against the City of Portland, or any of its officers, agents or employees by reason of bodily injuries or death, that my child might suffer arising out of their participation whether or not caused by the City’s negligence. In case of emergency, accident or illness, I give my permission to have my child treated by a professional medical person, transported by medical staff and admitted to a hospital if necessary. I agree to be the party responsible for all medical expenses, and loss of personal property, incurred in my child’s behalf.

Insurance Provider _____________________________________________ Policy No.____________________

Signature of Parent or Guardian ___________________________________________ Date _______________

**Teen Sign-In/Out**

Parents! If you’d like your teen to be able to sign themselves in and out of camp, please initial below. Otherwise, you will need to park and walk to sign them in and out each day.

Initials __________ I give permission for my teen to sign themselves in and out of camp each day.

**Training and Volunteer Dates**

All Jr Naturalists must attend one training day prior to their first week of volunteering.**

Please look at your summer calendar and decide which day works best for your calendar.

**Please note: There are only 14 spaces available per day of training. If your first choice date is full, we will contact you to talk through other available options**

My first choice date for training:

- □ Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020 - 9:30am-3:30pm at Mt. Tabor Park (Meeting at the covered shelter)
- □ Wednesday, June 24th, 2020 - 9:30am-3:30pm at Mt. Tabor Park (Meeting at the covered shelter)
- □ Thursday, June 25th, 2020 - 9:30am-3:30pm at Mt. Tabor Park (Meeting at the covered shelter)
- □ Wednesday, July 15th, 2020 - 9:30am-3:30pm at Mt. Tabor Park (Meeting at the covered shelter)
- □ Wednesday, July 22nd, 2020 - 9:30am-3:30pm at Sellwood Park (Meeting at SE 7th & SE Malden)

*Please note that Mt. Tabor is closed to vehicles every Wednesday.
Please enter the park at SE 69th and Yamhill St. and park along the road to the right*

Teens must sign up to volunteer for two (2) weeks of camp. Teens may volunteer for a third week if spots are available. Please tell us your 1st & 2nd choice dates for each week of volunteering. Weeks are registered on a first-come, first-served basis. Once we’ve received this completed form, we’ll call you to finalize available weeks.

First Week: 1st choice dates + location: ___________________, 2nd choice dates + location: ________________

Second Week: 1st choice dates + location: ___________________, 2nd choice dates + location: ________________

□ Check here if your teen would be interested in volunteering for a third week if available.