

RMRP Education Volunteer Position Description - Trainee Level

Position Purpose:

- Learn to assist the Education Department in basic husbandry tasks and facility maintenance at the RMRP with supervision, and aid with outreach support when possible.
- Support the Program's mission of Inspiring the protection and appreciation of raptors and the spaces they live through excellence in raptor rehabilitation, education, and research.

Qualifications:

Previous experience in animal care (domestic or wildlife) may be helpful, but is not a requirement. We believe that a strong interest in wildlife, enthusiasm, a strong work ethic, and willingness to learn are more important than academic qualifications.

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Agree to and pass a criminal background check
- Have and maintain a current tetanus vaccination (due every 10 years)
- Have a current Covid Vaccination
- Agree to and sign a liability waiver. The RMRP does not provide insurance coverage for any volunteer. We strongly encourage you to have your own health insurance.
- Attend orientation, required classes & training sessions, and weekly volunteer shifts
- Ability to perform moderately physically-demanding tasks, (such as cleaning/scrubbing, sweeping/mopping, lifting and carrying water buckets up to 5-20+ lbs) which requires bending, kneeling, stretching, standing for long periods of time, walking on uneven surfaces with gravel/snow or ice, walking distances, hand/wrist/arm gripping ability, and working inside and outside in all weather conditions
- Ability to have awareness/observational skills including hearing, and visual ability with range of motion of neck and upper torso to view and react to raptor movements within enclosures.
- Possess good oral and written communication skills
- Work efficiently while following directions and protocols
- Work independently and as a team member in collaboration with other volunteers and staff
- Demonstrate safe and ethical practices to maintain the welfare of all education ambassador raptors
- Maintain a high level of professionalism when interacting with the public during outreach activities
- Willing to work around and handle raptor diets, which includes raw meat and dead (frozen and thawed) whole small animals such as rats, mice, and quail. Volunteers are not expected to participate in, or be responsible for euthanasia of any raptor diet animals, but will need to be able to deliver already-dead and prepared food to raptors and remove leftover food scraps from enclosures
- You are responsible for arranging your own reliable transportation to and from the facility.

Duties and responsibilities:

- Learn to provide husbandry care for education ambassador raptors during Education crew shifts:
 - Safety skills for working around free-lofted raptors
 - Bird checks
 - Maintaining detailed bird records
 - Fill and carry ~10 to 20+lb water buckets
 - Clean with and move hoses
 - Disinfect, scrub perches and raptor enclosures, in the presence of free-lofted raptors
 - Thorough gravel raking in raptor enclosures, and some snow shoveling
 - Participate in “flocking sessions” (team handling and exchange of educational information)
 - Performing light enclosure and perch maintenance
 - Misc. cleaning and maintenance projects as needed
- Facility maintenance related tasks which include, but may not be limited to:
 - Laundry, collecting trash, sweeping and mopping large floor areas, washing food bowls and bags, general workspace upkeep, snow shoveling, restroom cleaning, and additional duties as assigned
- Outreach & Education:
 - Trainee and level H volunteers are encouraged (but not required) to help with public Wildlife Conservation Education programs and other outreach events:
 - Assist with presentation or booth area setup
 - Merchandise sales
 - Engage with the public to talk about RMRP’s mission & wildlife in line with conservation messaging
 - Setup & teardown of pop-up tents, tables, bird perch areas, merchandise, literature, loading and unloading vans, cleaning raptor travel boxes, cleaning and restocking of outreach items and supplies, etc...
- Develop & maintain knowledge and skill surrounding:
 - RMRP’s mission, raptor natural history, identification, diseases, anatomy, physiology and related conservation challenges/issues
 - Raptor behavior & body language, and safe working habits in enclosures in the presence of free-lofted raptors
 - All facility and raptor husbandry tasks
 - Raptor enclosure upkeep, repair and maintenance, and to recognize and report safety and health hazards
- Understand it is part of every person's job to aid in safety and security of the RMRP facility, raptors, people, vehicles, and possessions
- Agree to read, understand, and follow all RMRP protocols, rules, and regulations

Time requirements:

- Minimum 4 volunteer shifts per month (avg 4 hours per shift)
 - 3 E crews / month(4 hours per shift)
 - Must be available for the entire length of crew

- 8am - 12 pm May-October
- 9am - 1 pm October-May
- 1 additional volunteer shift of choice per month (can be another E crew shift, or an outreach support shift of 4+ hours)
 - Encouraged to participate in helping at outreach events, but not required (at the trainee level or husbandry level).

Benefits:

- Gaining in-depth knowledge about raptors, including but not limited to; behavior, natural history, conservation issues, Identification, diseases, nutrition, etc. in the presence of live educational raptors
- Gaining in-depth knowledge regarding regulations, ethics and other issues when caring for captive educational wild animals
- Working within close proximity to live educational raptors when providing husbandry care and feeding
- Opportunity to educate and inspire members of the public about the wonders of raptors
- Self fulfillment opportunities because you are giving back to the RMRP, the community, and the world
- Meeting new people and friends
- In some instances you may use your volunteer hours for school credit
- Exchange of volunteer hours for merchandise in the gift shop. At the ten year mark and higher your time gets twice the bang for the buck in the gift shop
- Gaining valuable hands-on knowledge and skills that can be transferred to other learning and job opportunities in the future.

Key Working Relationships:

- Communicate with education staff about any concerns or issues, in a timely manner
- Maintain a professional and positive working relationship & rapport with staff and other volunteers.

Individual volunteer experience, skills and performance will determine the range of activities added to his/her/their responsibilities over time. Advanced duties and training opportunities (raptor handling/ training, outreach presenting, etc...) will be considered when the volunteer has demonstrated understanding, proficiency and reliability in currently assigned tasks, as well as consistently meeting all volunteer requirements, and along with program needs.