

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Volunteer Job Description: Agriculture & Ecology Student Activity Trail

Location:
Kellogg Bird Sanctuary
12685 East C Avenue
Augusta, MI 49012

Agency:
MSU Kellogg Biological Station
3700 East Gull Lake Drive
Hickory Corners, MI 49060

Contact Person: Volunteer Program Coordinator
Telephone: (269) 671-2263

Supervision: Sanctuary Staff (direct)
Volunteer Program Coordinator (indirect)

Purpose of the position: Further the Sanctuary's mission to educate about KBS research and the environment through outreach. Lead students on this Sanctuary trail during their field trips, teaching them about farming and the environment.

Task Description/Specific Duties:

- Conduct tours for school-aged groups ranging in age from 2nd through 5th grade, making sure groups are equipped with the Activity Guide and accompanying backpack kit
- Most groups will be affiliated with a school, but some other groups (Girl Scouts, homeschoolers, etc.) may request a volunteer, to lead school groups through the Activity Trail and engage students with the Activity Guide and answer questions of teachers and chaperones about the trail
- Basic concepts that are explained during a tour include:
 - Farming the land
 - Biodiversity
 - Soil, plants, and water
 - How to understand and engage in the scientific method
- A comprehensive guide is provided for the volunteer, teachers, and chaperones



W.K. Kellogg Biological Station

3700 E. Gull Lake Dr.
Hickory Corners, MI 49060

269-671-5117
Fax: 269-671-2351
kbs.msu.edu

Days and Times Needed: Sanctuary normal hours of operation: Monday–Saturday 9am to 5pm, Sunday 11am to 4pm. The majority of tours for the Activity Trail are weekday mornings or afternoons throughout the school year. Volunteers should set aside at least 1½ hours for each tour group. Volunteers are given the opportunity to choose group tours which best fit their schedules.

Duration of Position: April 15 through November 1, most tours likely to occur during the school year.

Last update: September, 2015

Continued: Agriculture & Ecology Student Activity Trail

Qualifications: Previous knowledge of subject matter is not required. Must be outgoing, welcoming, and have an interest in working with people, especially elementary school aged students. Learning about the Long Term Ecological Research Program is required in order to educate visitors what this research is about. Should also enjoy the outdoors and feel comfortable leading groups along a three-quarter-mile tour route. Applicants must be at least 18 years old. The trail is open April 15 through November 1. Tours are typically scheduled on weekday mornings and afternoons during the school year.

Orientation and Training: Training is provided and all new Tour Guide Volunteers will partner with an experienced guide to become acquainted with the subject matter prior to their first scheduled tour group.

Benefits: KBS volunteers receive free admission program discounts and 10% off merchandise at the Bird Sanctuary when they present their volunteer ID, and an invitation to the annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

Comments: Volunteers will be working in a friendly environment with helpful and appreciative staff members.