



Eco-Leaders Volunteer Program at Children's Forest

The Children's Forest welcomes Eco-Leaders interested in becoming leaders in stewardship and environmental education. As an Eco-Leader, Children's Forest is in your hands. Children's Forest provides opportunities for youth to take a leadership role in forest management by giving them a legitimate voice in caring for our local mountains. As an Eco-Leader, you will be able to spread knowledge with visitors by leading interpretive programs at Children's Forest and develop your leadership skills by making real life decisions in forest management. Eco-Leaders choose what area they would like to volunteer in to share each Eco-Leader's talents. Eco-Leaders will never be asked to do something they do not feel comfortable doing; however we challenge them to push themselves by stepping outside their comfort level.

To sign up, fill out the Eco-Leaders Volunteer application. Once accepted to the program, an email invitation to our Eventbrite page will be sent, where monthly volunteering opportunities are listed. New Eco-leaders will go through a naturalist training and be required to shadow current Eco-Leaders volunteering in the areas they are interested in. There will be opportunities offered through Children's Forest in the summer and through the Big Bear Discovery Center year round.

Qualifications:

- Be 13-17 years old
- Have a love for nature
- Interested in learning more about the San Bernardino National Forest and forest management practices
- Interested in practicing leadership skills in real world situations
- Willing to share knowledge and lead visitor programs to children and adults
- Dedication to projects

Benefits:

- Develop strong leadership skills
- Expand your knowledge about the San Bernardino National Forest
- Gain teamwork skills
- Improve public speaking and presentation skills
- Positive community involvement
- Strengthen college applications and resumes
- Opportunities for AmeriCorps internships and scholarships working with the Southern California Mountains Foundation

- Bonding with fellow Eco-Leaders
- Opportunities to work with people from different backgrounds and learn about their interests

Responsibilities:

- Staff the Children's Forest Visitor Information Center (VIC) during summer months, working with visitors who are interested in learning more about the San Bernardino National Forest
- Lead naturalist walks at Children's Forest and Dogwood Campground
- Develop and implement activities for visitors at the VIC
- Develop and produce campfire talks and skits at Dogwood Campground
- Devise and execute plans for management of Children's Forest land
- Manage greenhouse at Children's Forest
- Work with local after-school nature clubs and nature days at local summer camps
- Represent the Eco-Leader's program at local events and festivals
- Plan, schedule, and staff community events at Children's Forest
- Attend planning meetings
- Newsletters will be posted in blog form each week in the summer and monthly in the winter
- Log hours and participate in Eco-Leader activities as rewards for meeting volunteering goals
- Always be safety conscious and be respectful of adults working with Eco-Leaders

Sharing Ownership:

Connecting with other Children's Forests will be helpful in sharing ideas for land management. Quarterly meetings will be set up to skype with other Children's Forest programs to learn how they are making a difference in their public lands.

Rewards:

Trips and activities will be offered to Eco-Leaders on a regular basis. Eco-leaders must meet the volunteering requirements to participate in activities and trips. When each trip or activity is posted, the required hours will be listed as well.

- **5 Hours:** Day Hikes
- **10 Hours:** Day trips and day hikes
- **15 Hours:** Social nights (bring one friend for every 5 hours over 15 hours!)
- **25:** Camping and overnight trips

For more information:

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