

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

TITLE: Park Naturalist Technician
SERIES: Natural Science

GRADE: F
DATE: 6/22/99
FLSA: Non-exempt

CODE: 4409

Class Definition

Under general supervision, assists in providing interpretive, recreational and educational program services to visitors. Park Naturalist Technicians participate in and assist park naturalists in developing and conducting nature programs at Commission parks and nature facilities. Employees perform research for naturalist staff; conduct simpler programs that have already been prepared by professional naturalists; participate in staff projects; and assist naturalist staff in operating a nature facility and in related activities. Technicians possess knowledge of the natural or life sciences acquired through college level course work and perform tasks designed to increase their knowledge of area natural and cultural history. Work is typically performed under the guidance and direction of professional naturalists. Performs other related duties as assigned.

Essential Job Functions:

1. Provides interpretive programs that have been previously prepared and organized for presentation, usually on simpler aspects of a nature subject. Presents program using aids, handouts, demonstration, oral presentation and other methods appropriate to the subject. Responds to questions of the group, explaining the natural processes involved in the subject.
2. Greets visitors to a facility and provides program information; makes reservations for programs and collects program fees as appropriate.
3. Assists naturalist staff in preparing natural and cultural history interpretive materials including interpretive handouts, trail guides, maps and program promotional materials by preparing drafts, outlines and other materials.
4. Researches subjects for naturalist staff, collecting information, artifacts and other items for use in programs. Obtains information from conferences, schools, specialists, professional organizations and other sources for use in the development of interpretive programs.
5. Participates in organizing and maintaining a multimedia library of naturalist interpretive materials. Collects, catalogues and maintains natural artifacts such as insects, rocks, minerals and skeletons for program and exhibit use.
6. Assists naturalist staff in planning, developing and maintaining interpretive displays and exhibits, and in preserving cultural history objects and artifacts.

Essential Job Functions (cont.)

7. Assists naturalist staff in the research, planning, development and maintenance of outdoor natural history study areas, interpretive gardens and trails; or in conducting conservation and resource management projects such as monitoring water quality, wetlands planting or reforestation.
8. Participates in studies to identify and evaluate natural resources such as plants, wildlife, wetlands, and geological features in parks.
9. Monitors buildings and grounds to ensure safety, security and cleanliness of facilities. Makes minor repairs to exhibits and other structures. Calls police, fire or rescue personnel in emergencies.
10. May train and lead volunteers, interns and other part-time or occasional staff in work and conservation projects.

Important Worker Characteristics:

Knowledge of: (1) natural, life and physical science; (2) environmental science; (3) natural resource management; (4) CPR and first aid; (5) outdoor and water safety; (6) effective techniques of interpretation;* and (7) commission organization, policies and procedures*.

Skill in operation of: (1) audio-visual equipment; (2) field sampling equipment; and (3) camera.

Ability to: (1) present natural and cultural programs to varied groups; (2) communicate effectively with the staff and the public; (3) write clearly, effectively, and concisely; (4) interpret technical natural and cultural history materials to lay persons; (5) speak clearly and effectively to large groups; (6) provide courteous service; (7) organize work efficiently; and (8) develop program promotional materials.

*Developed primarily after employment in this job class.

Minimum Qualifications:

1. Associates of Arts degree in wildlife science or related field; or two years of experience as a naturalist aide, assistant or equivalent position; or

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Minimum Qualifications (cont.)

2. An equivalent combination of education and experience.
3. Bachelor's degree in wildlife science or related field is desirable and may be substituted for #1.

Working Conditions

Work in indoor and outdoor settings. Work is scheduled during weekends, evenings, and holidays. May be exposed to inclement weather and outdoor hazards.