

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

TITLE:	Park Naturalist II	GRADE:	H	CODE:	4411
SERIES:	Natural Science	DATE:	6/22/99		
		FLSA:	Exempt		

Class Definition

Under general direction, applies specialized knowledge of natural, life and physical sciences to develop and present interpretive, recreational and educational programs in natural and cultural history to the public. Park Naturalist II's develop programs relating to natural and cultural history that typically require specialized scientific knowledge of a subject or area, cover large or extensive areas containing many different elements, and plan and carry out special projects or events involving considerable coordination of other entities within or outside of the Commission. As a specialist, Park Naturalist II's are expected to become expert in a naturalist field or subject through original research and field studies; such expertise being evidenced in the depth and thoroughness of the programs they develop, the extent to which their expertise is utilized by community groups, and the reputations they establish as regional or national experts in a subject. As a senior generalist, Park Naturalist II's utilize the full range of methods and techniques in the development of programs of large scope, typically covering many different aspects of a subject. Park Naturalist II's provide leadership to other staff in developing and presenting programs, and in planning and coordinating events and activities with other Commission units and staffs, with other governmental entities, and with community organizations. Workers receive assignments on a project basis, often of several months duration, and proceed independently to complete all aspects of the assignment, resolving most problems encountered on their own. Work is reviewed by facility/program managers on the basis of technical adequacy and achievement of program objectives. Performs other related duties as assigned.

Essential Job Functions:

1. Develops specialized programs, events or activities relating to natural and cultural history that are characterized by an in-depth scientific knowledge of a subject or area, cover a large or extensive area that contains many different elements, or involves considerable coordination of other entities within or outside of the Commission.
2. Develops programs of large scope, utilizing the full range of methods and techniques to cover many different aspects of a subject.
3. Provides expert scientific knowledge of an area or subject by conducting original research and field studies and publishing such findings and results in professional journals. Serves as technical resource on a subject matter area within a facility, and provides such technical leadership and program direction to environmental, nature, wildlife and similar groups within the community. Provides such expertise to other governmental organizations as requested.

Essential Job Functions: (cont.)

4. Provides leadership to other staff in developing and presenting programs, and in planning and coordinating events and activities with other Commission units and staffs, with other governmental entities, and with community organizations. Acts as lead naturalist on projects requiring specialized knowledge of large scope, making assignments and reviewing the work of other naturalist staff participating in such projects.
5. Develops, presents and evaluates interpretive, recreational and educational programs in natural and cultural history to the public and to groups with specialized interests, often of a highly technical nature. Prepares presentation materials, aids and guides for such presentations; responds to questions from the groups and explains the natural processes involved.
6. Responds to visitor, telephone, and staff inquiries concerning natural and cultural history and conservation matters. Greets visitors, provides interpretive program information, makes program reservations and collects program and other fees, when appropriate. Promotes positive public relations for nature center programs and encourages public appreciation for the natural environment.
7. Reviews and/or prepares natural and cultural history interpretive materials including interpretive handouts, trail guides, maps and program promotional materials.
8. Researches subjects for programs, 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.
9. Organizes and maintains a multimedia library of naturalist research, program and interpretive materials. Collects, catalogs and maintains natural artifacts such as insects, rocks, minerals and skeletons for program and exhibit use.
10. Plans, develops and maintains interpretive displays and exhibits. Preserves cultural history objects and artifacts. Maintains live animals for display, exhibits and use in various interpretive programs.
11. Researches, plans, develops and maintains outdoor natural history study areas, interpretive gardens and trails. Conducts conservation and resource management projects such as monitoring water quality, wetlands planting and reforestation projects.
12. Identifies and evaluates natural resources in parks (e.g., plants, wildlife, wetlands and geological features).

Essential Job Functions: (cont.)

13. 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.
14. Monitors assigned parkland for encroachments such as unauthorized dumping, illegal hunting, and trapping. Enforces Commission policies and rules as necessary and refers violations thereof to appropriate Commission authorities.
15. Trains and leads the work of naturalist staff, making assignments and reviewing work products. Instructs staff in procedures and technical aspects of the work. May be assigned ongoing responsibility for volunteers, interns and other part-time or occasional staff at a facility, providing formal assessments of their work as requested.

Important Worker Characteristics:

Expert knowledge of a specialty area or extensive knowledge of: (1) naturalist subject matter and related natural, life or physical sciences involved in the subject.

Good knowledge of: (1) natural, life and physical science; (2) environmental science; (3) principles and practices of interpreting natural history and culture to the public; (4) effective instructional methods and techniques; (5) natural resource management; (6) CPR and first aid; (7) outdoor and water safety; and (8) Commission organization, policies and procedures*.

Skill in operation of: (1) audio-visual equipment; (2) field sampling equipment; (3) camera; (4) motor boat; and (5) computer.

Ability to: (1) provide expert knowledge of a subject matter or area in the development of interpretative programs; (2) provide technical resource and program leadership to environmental, nature and wildlife groups within the community; (3) provide expertise in a subject matter or naturalist area to other governmental entities; (4) plan, develop, lead and present programs of large and extensive scope; (5) coordinate effectively with other entities, staffs and units within the Commission and the community in planning and carrying out programs, events and activities; (6) communicate effectively with the staff and the public; (7) write clearly, effectively, and concisely; (8) interpret technical natural and cultural history materials to lay persons; (9) provide courteous service; (10) organize work efficiently; and (11) develop program promotional advertising material.

*Developed primarily after employment in this job class.

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Minimum Qualifications:

1. Bachelor's degree in Natural, Life or Physical science or related field; and three years of progressively responsible park naturalist experience; or
2. An equivalent combination of education and experience.

Working Conditions

Works in indoor or outdoor settings. Works scheduled weekends, evenings, and holidays.
Exposed to inclement weather and outdoor hazards.