

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

TITLE: Park Naturalist
SERIES: Natural Science

CODE: 2315

GRADE: 16
EEO: Professional

DATE: 6/22/21
FLSA: Non-Exempt

Class Definition:

Under general supervision, provides interpretive program services to visitors. Participates in and assists higher-level park naturalists in developing and conducting nature programs at Commission parks and nature facilities. Incumbents perform research for naturalist staff; presents simpler programs that have already been prepared and responds to questions and explains natural processes involved. Participates in staff projects and assists in operating a nature facility and in related activities. Performs tasks designed to increase their knowledge of area natural and cultural history. The work contributes to the accuracy, adequacy, timeliness and other facets of the unit or work program of assignment. Applies knowledge of natural, life, and physical science, environmental science, natural resources management and outdoor and water safety. Performs various types of research and analyses to solve regularly occurring problems in the work. Interacts with people inside and outside the organization, including the public, to exchange information, coordinate, instruct and guide. Performs other related duties, as assigned.

Assignments are made in terms of specific duties and responsibilities. The incumbent plans and carries out the work in conformance with established policies and procedures and accepted customer service practices, resolves commonly encountered work problems and deviations by selecting and applying the appropriate guidelines, and brings procedural exceptions and recommendations to the supervisor for guidance or resolution. Work is expected to be accurate and is subject to check for conformance with guidelines, quality, quantity, timeliness, teamwork, customer service and other factors.

Examples of Important Duties:

1. Provides interpretive programs that have been previously prepared and organized for presentations, usually on simpler aspects of a nature subject. Presents programs using aids, handouts, demonstrations, oral presentations, and other methods appropriate to the subject. Responds to questions of the group, explaining natural processes involved in the subject.
2. Assists 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.
3. Assists in planning, developing, and maintaining interpretive displays and exhibits, and in preserving cultural history objects and artifacts; may maintain live animals for display, exhibits and use in various interpretive programs that are in adherence with state and Federal animal welfare regulations and standards.
4. Greets visitors to facility and provides program information; makes reservations for programs and collects program fees as appropriate.
5. Researches subjects for higher level 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 development of interpretive programs.

