

VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: Interpreter
LOCATION: Chinsegut Nature Center & Wildlife Environmental Area
SUPERVISOR: Chinsegut Nature Center Director

Background:

The Chinsegut Wildlife and Environmental Area and Nature Center (CWEA) is unique in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) wildlife management system, as it is the only area managed specifically with the goal of providing conservation education programs to the public.

The CWEA is composed of two tracts. The 408-acre Nature Center Tract contains rolling sandhills and scenic Mays Prairie, hiking trails and boardwalks, and a 49-person capacity Nature Center. The 420-acre Big Pine tract also contains hiking trails, is open to the public anytime and has the distinction of being one of the largest contiguous (and the southern-most) tracts of old-growth longleaf pine in Florida. The diverse natural communities of the CWEA provide habitats attractive to many wildlife species (including several that are endangered or species of special concern).

Position Responsibilities:

The Interpreter's principle responsibilities are to deliver educational programs, to conduct tours, and to interpret management practices, natural history and cultural history of the Chinsegut WEA. The successful candidate should feel comfortable in teaching principals of ecology, wildlife habitat management and related environmental topics in an interesting and engaging manner. Examples of current educational programs include the following: Exotic Invasive Plant removal day, Project WILD training, wildflower tours, birding tours, archery workshops, Pioneer Day, Reptile/Amphibian day, historical tours etc.

Assigned Tasks:

- Develop educational programs for a variety of user groups
- Deliver interpretive programs
- Conduct interpretation and educational program evaluations
- Complete daily operations tasks as assigned by The Nature Center Director
- Assist The Nature Center and WEA visitors as needed
- Monitor trail conditions for hazards, and work with volunteers and CWEA staff to maintain and improve them.

Skills/Previous Experience/Qualifications:

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Strong organizational skills
- Extreme flexibility in working with youth, adults and large groups
- Professional or proven experience as an environmental educator or in successful completion of an approved conservation education training program, such as Project WILD, PLT, Exploring Ecotourism Course, Master Naturalist Training, or Master Wildlife Conservationist training
- Strong voice
- Ability to lift 50 pounds
- Must possess a valid driver's license

Requirements:

- Complete required orientation and training
- Complete appropriate application and other administrative forms correctly
- Accurately record volunteer hours
- Contribute at least 24 hours of scheduled work each month
- Contact director within 24 hours of observing problems on the WEA
- Study history and natural science as applied to Chinsegut Nature Center and WEA
- Be willing to pursue additional professional development opportunities

Benefits: The Interpreter Volunteer will get a "behind the scenes" exposure to wildlife and land management on a Wildlife Management Area. The volunteer has the freedom to use these experiences to creatively expand the knowledge of the many people who visit from Florida and elsewhere.

Length of Commitment: The demand for educational programs increases depending on the season and can be as frequently as at least once or twice a week.

Equipment Issued:

- Uniform T-shirt
- Nametag
- Volunteer Handbook
- Educational and training materials

I understand that individuals filling this position may be subjected to a background investigation through state and local law enforcement agencies.

Chinsegut Nature Center Director Date

Chinsegut Interpreter Date

Birthdate

SS#

InterpreterGJB03/2004