



TUALATIN HILLS PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

Nature Play Survey Volunteer

LOCATION: District Parks

REPORTS TO: Natural Resources Volunteer Coordinator or Park Ranger

AGE REQUIREMENTS: Ages 14 and up

TIME COMMITMENT: A minimum of two hours every two weeks, for a total of three months

POSITION SUMMARY: Nature play is any kind of play that takes place in nature and/or with natural elements. This type of play has proven to be a valuable part of childhood development and because of this, the Park District is at the forefront of providing two different types of nature play areas locally, including:

- Off-trail play areas that involve the designation of existing natural areas for unstructured free-play, allowing kids to discover and participate with nature on their own terms. This type of nature play area can be found at Hyland Woods.
- Natural playscapes that involve the design of nature-inspired play areas, incorporating natural elements and built play structures to provide for a sensory experience of nature and a variety of play activities. This type of nature play area can be found at Camille Park, Cooper Mountain Nature Park and Pioneer Park. New sites are also being added.

Surveys of these nature play areas will help the district better understand how nature play areas are being used by the public. Surveys can be performed at any time of day, year-round.

BENEFITS:

- An opportunity to become familiar with behavioral social studies procedures.
- Gain knowledge of child cognitive development and play research.
- Obtain experience interacting with park patrons as a representative of the Park District.

SUMMARY OF DUTIES (includes, but not limited to, the following):

- Perform surveys of patron use of Nature Play areas in designated District natural areas.
- Perform surveys according to Natural Resources Department protocols.
- Return survey paperwork to the assigned Park Ranger or Natural Resources Volunteer Coordinator at the Fanno Creek Service Center.
- Report all accidents/incidents immediately to your supervisor.
- Record volunteer hours in VIC Net, an online database portal for volunteers.
- Other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Training session is required.
- Must be able to walk up to one mile over rough terrain.
- CPR and first aid certification preferred, but not required.
- Must possess good communication skills and be able to work well independently.

EXPECTATIONS:

- Have a willingness to learn how to perform park facility use surveys according to outlined protocols.
- The tasks outlined above must be within your physical capability.
- As a volunteer, you are a representative of the District and should act in a manner that promotes the District in a positive way.
- Be timely and available to attend your scheduled shift.
- Be able to return your data sheets routinely by established deadlines.

BACKGROUND CHECK: A background check is required for applicants 18 years or older.

I.D. BADGE: A volunteer I.D. badge will be provided for this position.

WORKING CONDITIONS: Frequently exposed to noise, heat, sunlight, rain, wind, cold and slippery trails. Possible exposure to poison-oak, thorns, bees and steep surfaces also exists. Position requires periods of walking, stooping and standing. Bending and stretching are required during normal activities.

APPLICATION INFORMATION: If you are interested in this position, submit a completed volunteer application at <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=905367309> and indicate in the notes section your interest in performing nature play surveys.