



Volunteer Opportunity: Nature Calls Assistant

Program Description: Nature Calls! is a CPAWS-NS led program that introduces wilderness experiences to groups of underprivileged youth from urban areas in Nova Scotia. Its objective is to foster leadership skills and environmental awareness amongst the participants in a genuine wilderness setting. Previous trips have gone to Kejimikujik National Park and involved wilderness games, guided hikes, interactive leadership activities, and opportunities for quiet reflection. This year, CPAWS-NS is partnering with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halifax region to visit some of the protected areas around the HRM that we have helped protect, or that need more protection, while engaging youth in fun and educational environmental activities such as plant identification, nature photography and geocaching.

Purpose of Position: To assist with various aspects of planning and executing the Nature Calls program based on the goals and objectives of the project.

Duties: The successful applicant will complete a variety of tasks in the Nature Calls Program, including:

- Brainstorming Nature Calls trips and activities
- Working with Big Brothers Big Sisters to plan dates and times, and to promote participation
- Contact volunteers and potential group leaders or trip guides. (I.e. bird watchers to help youth identify birds on an outing)
- Solicit donations or materials on loan for outings (i.e. binoculars, field guides, etc)
- Help train other volunteers to assist with outings
- Participate on Nature Calls outings

Time Requirements: Approximately 10-15 hours a month over mid-April to mid-October; monthly check-in November through March. Possibility exists for winter outings as well (cross country skiing, snowshoeing, etc.). Expected commitment: minimum 6 months.

Skills/Requirements: The successful applicant should be;

- Highly organized with attention to detail
- Good research and communication skills
- Comfortable talking to new people
- Comfortable travelling around wilderness areas within the HRM
- Willing to learn and retain CPAWS information
- Passion for wilderness conservation and environmental education

Other Requirements

- Police background check
- Should be able to visit the CPAWS office periodically
- Willing to assist with other outreach activities when available
- Own transportation is an asset (for travel to areas around the HRM)

Orientation/Training: General volunteer orientation. In addition, a more detailed orientation to the Nature Calls program will be provided by the Education Coordinator combined with attendance of a Nature Calls outing

Work with: The successful applicant will work primarily with the Education Coordinator but will have contact with most staff members. In addition, the successful applicant will meet monthly with the Education Coordinator to discuss progress and provide mutual feedback on the position and agreed upon tasks.

Benefits to Volunteer: The experience gained through this position will be diverse and transferable to a number of paid and volunteer positions in the environmental, non-profit and education sectors. A reference letter will be provided upon the completion of the agreed upon time commitment (minimum 6 months). In addition, you will play a much-needed and vital role in the heart of the CPAWS Nova Scotia Chapter. As a volunteer, you will have a great deal of contact with the public, youth, and partner organizations for this program. These interactions will be instrumental in developing and fostering environmental education and conservation awareness among youth. This role is dynamic and will grow as new educational and experiential ideas are developed and implemented.

To Apply: Please send a cover letter and resume with a completed CPAWS volunteer application to the Education Coordinator; educationATcpawsns.org.