

Kids' Farm Volunteer Naturalist

Program seasons: April-June, June-August, September-November* 1 day (2 tours) per week or more

***Longer term commitments are more than welcome!**

Oxbow's Mission

Our mission is to inspire people to eat healthy, sustainably grown food and to steward our natural resources for future generations. By creating connections to, curiosity about, and confidence in nature, Oxbow Education (OxEd) lays the foundation for future stewards of the Earth, giving people the tools and inspiration to cultivate their own relationship with their community, the food they eat, and the natural world.

What We Offer

The Center is located on 230 acres of forest and grassland bordered by Western Washington's Snoqualmie River. We use this mixed landscape to:

Produce food. We cultivate 30 acres of mixed vegetable crops using agro-ecological principles and engage in research to inform conservation farming practice.

Grow native plants. We operate a native plant nursery that produces plants for habitat restoration projects, educational gardens, and urban landscapes, and conducts research on native plant propagation using sustainable growing methods.

Connect children to nature. We offer environmental education programs for children pre-K thru high school to build their comfort in the outdoors and provide them with opportunities to learn about the links between agriculture, conservation, and the environment.

Position Overview

Oxbow hosts thousands of kids in the spring, summer and fall for our seasonal *Farm Adventures*. Primarily pre-school and elementary-aged students visit the farm for 75-minute (fall) or 90-minute (spring/summer) hands-on farm tours facilitated by farmer and volunteer instructors. Kids learn about the six plant parts, soil, compost, helpers/pests, plant families, ways to connect to nature, and more!

Volunteer naturalists lead tours with up to 14 kids (and their chaperones) around our two-acre Kids' Farm. When no tours are scheduled, volunteers may assist the OxEd team with a variety of farming tasks around the Kids' Farm. Only a moderate understanding of food and farms is necessary. There will be a lot of opportunity for learning from our staff.

Additional Opportunities for Volunteer Naturalists

Participate in professional development workshops with OxEd staff, assist with community partnership building, tabling at special events, and help care for a new school garden in Monroe (additional volunteer registration/background check with Monroe School District required).

Qualifications

- Weekly commitment during the current season of programming (and beyond, if desired)
- Exceptionally positive attitude and enthusiasm
- Must enjoy working with young children as well as adults
- Comfortable speaking in front of and leading large groups around the farm
- Ability to take direction, ask for help when necessary, and accept constructive feedback
- Ability to: work while standing, sitting, bending over, or kneeling; lift heavy & awkward objects, preferably up to 50 lbs; perform physical work such as digging or planting, all in inclement weather.
- Prior experience in the area of agriculture, sustainability, food systems, education, or environmental studies; **or** a strong interest in pursuing these areas!
- Ability to pass a background check

Responsibilities

- Lead field trip programs for students from pre-school through 5th grade (typically preK – 3rd)
- Facilitate garden and farm projects with children
- Participate in farming tasks on the Kids' Farm
- Interact with participants and volunteers in a friendly and enthusiastic manner
- Maintain open communication with Oxbow staff and other volunteers

Hours

- Seasonal commitment for a minimum of one season of programming
- Minimum of one day/ 2 farm tours per week (about 3 hours)
- Spring and Summer Tours are at 9:00am, 10:45am, and 12:30pm Monday – Friday. Fall Tours are 9:30am, 11am, and 12:30pm. Volunteers can stay for one, two, or three tours, but must be present at our 8:30 morning meeting to be outlined on the day's activities
- Weekly time commitment and schedule can be flexible based on your schedule
- Ability to attend the Volunteer Orientation (Spring volunteer orientation: Apr. 2019, Summer and Fall Orientation dates TBD).

Benefits

- 35 + hours of community service each season
- Develop skills and experience teaching and facilitating outdoor environmental education
- Add to your resume and explore new careers, receive a letter of reference from staff
- Learn and practice basic organic farming techniques
- Connect to other community members and staff with shared interests
- Inspire the next generation to eat healthy foods, enjoy gardening, and value conservation
- Work as a team with Oxbow staff in a fun and collaborative environment
- Spend time at a beautiful organic farm in the Snoqualmie Valley
- Bring home fresh, seasonal, organic produce every day!



How to Apply:

Applications are located at <http://www.oxbow.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

If interested, please email or snail-mail your application form to:

volunteer@oxbow.org

Oxbow Farm and Conservation Center
Attn: Education
10819 Carnation-Duvall Road NE
Carnation, WA 98014

If you have any questions, please call 425-788-1134 ext. 3 or send an email to volunteer@oxbow.org.