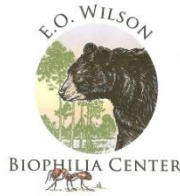


Volunteer Service at The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center



About Us

The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center is an environmental education facility serving students, teachers, and professional audiences. Its mission is to educate visitors on the importance of biodiversity, to promote sustainable balanced ecosystems, and to encourage conservation, preservation and restoration.

Developed by Walton County Conservationist and Resident, M.C. Davis, on his 48,000-acre conservation land named Nokuse Plantation, The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center is named after world renowned scientist Dr. Edward O. Wilson, Pellegrino University Professor Emeritus and Honorary Curator in Entomology at Harvard University, for his life-long contributions to public education about the importance of conserving the world's biodiversity. This two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, spent his formative years and performed his earliest scientific investigations in NW Florida and SW Alabama, and developed "biophilia -- the connections that human beings subconsciously seek with the rest of life."

Visitors at the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center will have an opportunity to learn about the natural environment through interpretive exhibits as well as an extensive trail system through natural areas undergoing ecological restoration on the nature preserve. In addition, this facility will be promoted as a gathering place for local and regional scientists to conduct ecological research and participate in symposia that disseminate this research to the public. By offering a five-day curriculum that coincides with the New Generation Sunshine State Standards, our young citizens will have a better understanding and knowledge for science portions of the FCAT, while promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic (STEM) subjects, and providing opportunities for inquiry, investigation and innovation so that in long-term we all may become better stewards during our journey on this planet.

Through agreements with local schools districts, the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center has become part of the formal education of students in the Florida Panhandle. The activities students participate in on site will enhance their learning in the classroom and give their science curriculum real world value.

Expectations

Volunteers at the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center should be outgoing, energetic individuals who work well with others. As our goal is to help students find their own biophilia, most activities will be outdoors, therefore tolerance to heat, humidity, rain, and variable weather is a necessity.

As a result of our agreement with local school districts, volunteers at the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center must follow guidelines set by district officials. Upon arrival each day, volunteers must check in with staff members at the front desk and sign in. At the end of the day, you must sign out as well. The same dress code mandated for educators will be followed by volunteers. Though business attire is impractical due to the nature of activities on site, modesty must be maintained. (Please ask an E.O. Wilson Biophilia center staff member for full dress code requirements.) Finally, volunteers must be fingerprinted in order to work on site since students will be present.

About Volunteering

The E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center offers a wide range of volunteer opportunities that are sure to match anyone's interests and talents. Volunteer opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- a. Administrative/Clerical Work
- b. Special Events
- c. Landscaping/Trail Work
- d. Teacher Aid
- e. Custodial Work
- f. Grant Writing
- g. Maintenance

**For more information or answers to further questions,
please contact Lauren Bray, 850-835-1824, or by email
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