

Volunteers needed at Biophilia Center

Want to make a difference? Volunteer at the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center for the 2010-2011 school year.

The Center offers volunteer opportunities in administrative/clerical work, special events, landscaping/trail work, teacher aid, custodial work, grant writing and maintenance.

The 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, 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 Northwest Florida and southwest

Alabama, and developed "biophilia — the connections that human beings subconsciously seek with the rest of life."

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 with enhance their learning in the classroom and give their science curriculum real world value.

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.

If you want to inspire students, training sessions for teachers and volunteers will be held in August. Call Christy Scally at 850-835-1824 for dates. Volunteer forms are available at www.eowilsoncenter.org/volunteerinfo.html.