

Greetings,

Nature Walk is a Como Park Zoo and Conservatory Education program for youth, ages 13-17, who have a strong interest in the natural world and are willing to share knowledge of the Zoo and Conservatory's animals and plants with visitors. Nature Walk offers youth an opportunity to learn more about connections between plants, animals, and humans. Youth also develop research and public speaking skills, gain confidence and experience personal growth.

Each year Como Volunteer Services works with Como Education to fill open spots for the upcoming Nature Walk season. The entire program supports forty youth each year; the goal is to have up to twenty four youth scheduled each day of the program. Due to numbers of youth applying to Nature Walk we cannot accept all applicants into the program but try to make the best match. This year there will be at least 12 openings for new youth volunteers.

Please review the list of dates below. The required forms are included; the application and reference forms must be completed and returned by March 16 for consideration for this program. Attendance at all training sessions (see below) is mandatory; be sure these dates are available before submitting application. Also required is a commitment to be available for a minimum of at least 18 days over the summer season.

**Mandatory dates for 2012:**

\* **Deadline for application and references: March 16**

\* Orientation session for prospective youth and parents/guardians: Wednesday, March 28, 6:00 pm- 7:30 pm

\* Interviews and oral presentations: Saturday, April 21 or Saturday, April 28 - 12 noon – 4:00 pm respectively

**Once accepted, mandatory requirements include:**

- Attendance for the duration (12:00 noon – 4:00 pm) of all three training sessions:
  - Saturday 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.; May 5, May 19, and June 2
- Commit to a minimum of 18 shifts throughout the season
  - Nature Walk 2012 season: Monday, June 11 through Tuesday, August 21 (11 weeks)
  - Shift days: Monday, Tuesday, Friday, shift time 9:30am - 2:30pm

A scheduling form will be given to each new volunteer; desired dates are accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Contact the Como Park Volunteer Office with any questions about Nature Walk or the application process. Call 651-487-8252 or email: [katie.dahill@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:katie.dahill@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

Thank you,  
Como Park Zoo and Conservatory Volunteer Services



COMO PARK  
ZOO & CONSERVATORY

## 2012 Como Nature Walk Volunteer Application

*Deadline for application submission is March 16, 2012*

*Please print carefully*

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age by **6/1/12\*** \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant must be 13yr old by this date. No exceptions**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

School currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of school days missed thus far this school year? \_\_\_\_\_ Number of times tardy? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about the Como Park Youth Nature Walk Volunteer program?

\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to be part of the Youth Nature Walk Volunteer program?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Note other volunteer experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Career Goals \_\_\_\_\_

What is your experience in public speaking or presentations? - describe:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have special needs or requirements? If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone for Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Which parent? \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone for Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Which parent? \_\_\_\_\_

If needed - Address of 2<sup>nd</sup> Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this completed form by March 16, 2012 to:**

*Como Park Zoo & Conservatory  
Volunteer Services C/O Katie Dahill  
1225 Estabrook, St. Paul, MN 55103  
or Fax to: (651) 487-8278*



COMO PARK  
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## 2012 Como Nature Walk Reference Form

*To be completed by an adult who is not related to the applicant.*

*Deadline for reference submission is March 16, 2012*

*Please print carefully*

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Adult (non-relative) Reference's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Known Applicant For \_\_\_\_\_ Years.

Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

*The above applicant has applied for the opportunity to be a youth volunteer with the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory Education Department. We understand that the applicant is in school and has limited work experience, so we are asking for a reference from a non-related adult. We ask that you answer the following questions honestly; additional comments can go on the back.*

<b>Please put an X for the appropriate answer:</b>	<b><u>Strongly Agree</u></b>	<b><u>Agree</u></b>	<b><u>Disagree</u></b>
1) Applicant is dependable			
2) Has shown interest and enthusiasm in accomplishing tasks.			
3) Has shown initiative and leadership ability.			
4) Takes pride in work and/or duties.			
5) Works well with others.			
6) Has demonstrated maturity/commitment to projects.			
7) Will demonstrate good speaking skills in front of audience			

Reference Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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