

**COMO PARK ZOO & CONSERVATORY**  
**VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION**  
*Nature Walk*

The Como Park Zoo and Conservatory's Nature Walk program will inspire youth to understand and value the presence of living things. The program aims to connect the public with Como's animals and plants to encourage appreciation, conservation and preservation of the natural world. Additionally, the Nature Walk program provides youth with valuable work experience and job skills and creates a gateway for potential internships and positions at Como.

**Qualifications:**

- Must be entering grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> in the fall of 2019.
- Must complete the application process as specified.
- Be prepared to present and speak in front of an audience by attending an interview and giving an oral presentation.
- Be willing to learn about all aspects of Como's exhibits, collections and history.
- Be comfortable initiating conversations with visitors of all ages and cultures.

**Responsibilities:**

- Attend four half-day training sessions.
- Work 15 shifts during the summer of 2019 season (June 10<sup>th</sup> through August 21<sup>st</sup>).
- Work 2 event shifts the 2019-2020 school year. This includes weekend events that run September to April or special events.
- Display courtesy, professionalism and maturity while working with staff, other volunteers and the public.
- Practice good interpretive techniques; present accurate information and make visitors feel welcome.
- Follow established procedures when working at Como, as specified in training and the *Como Park Zoo and Conservatory Nature Walk Volunteer Handbook*.
- Provide basic visitor services regarding Como Park Zoo & Conservatory, its attractions and operations.

**Job Duties:**

- Spark interest in visitors of all ages to learn about the exhibits at Como, from the rainforest habitat to the animals of the arctic, and the relationships between plants, animals and humans through interpretation and hands-on activities.
- Provide general information about Como while creating a positive and memorable experience for visitors.
- Promote Como's popular interactive summer experiences including the new Pollinator exhibit and Giraffe Feeding Station by interpreting biofacts and hands-on interactions.
- Utilize adaptation-themed props and activities that use live animals, plants, biofacts and artifacts to educate visitors about plant and animal interactions and current conservation issues.
- Exercise invaluable job skills such as self-reliance, punctuality, public speaking and team work.

**Program Benefits:**

- Be a part of the Nature Walk team! Attend training session that will fully prepare you to interpret, handle animals and interact with Como's visitors.
- Grasp the importance of a variety of plant and animal species, from the intricate bonsai to the majestic big cats! Foster an understanding about how plants and animals interact with their environment, and how we promote the protection and conservation of ecosystems at Como.
- Gain valuable experience interacting and sharing new and exciting knowledge with visitors.
- Understand the importance of job skills; including punctuality, proper communication, customer service and managing a schedule.

- Meet new people! An estimated two million people visit Como annually. Learn about how Como brings the community together.
- Network with Como staff and volunteers to provide a reference for future resumes and job applications.
- Learn about animal husbandry and the basic care of program animals.
- Take part in weekly opportunities that include animal enrichment creation, behind the scenes tours of Como, resume building workshops, mock interviews and much more!