



The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

2600 South Park Boulevard
Cleveland, OH 44120

Summer 2020

Youth Stewardship Assistant

Reports to: Natural Resources Specialist/Volunteer Coordinator

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, a 501(c)(3) non-profit founded in 1966 and located in the historic Shaker Parklands of Cleveland's eastern inner-ring suburbs, seeks **Youth Stewardship Assistants** to assist our land management staff with natural areas project during the summer. The Nature Center's mission is to conserve a natural area, connect people with nature and inspire environmental stewardship.

A successful candidate will be able to participate actively in land management, which includes, pulling invasive plants, trail maintenance, trash collection, and learning about plants and ecology. Our assistants are a very important part of our stewardship program. Training and guidance in native plants, management techniques and trail maintenance will be provided. The candidate will be enthusiastic, motivated and reliable. Candidate should expect to work in all weather conditions and lift 20 pounds.

Minimum Age to Volunteer: Youth entering high school

Minimum Time Commitment: Volunteers are asked for a minimum of 10 days. The days can be spread throughout the summer. They do not need to be consecutive. Many volunteers commit to more than 10 days. Participants can schedule dates Tuesday through Thursday each week.

2020 Summer Dates: June 16 - August 6, 2020 from 9:30 am-1 pm

Interview and Orientation dates for Youth Stewardship Assistants (A minimum of 5 participants is required to conduct interview and orientation sessions.)

Group Interview Dates – Tuesday, May 19 5:30 - 7:00 pm or Saturday, May 16 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Group Orientation Dates – Thursday, May 28 5:30 – 7:00 pm or Friday, June 5 1:00 – 2:30 pm

To Apply:

1. Fill out an application. The application found on the Nature Center at Shaker Lake's website. <https://shakerlakes.org/volunteer-application/>
2. Ask two (personal or professional) references to fill out an online reference form. <https://form.jotform.com/60186339192156>
3. Participate in an interview with the Natural Resources Specialist and the Volunteer Coordinator.
4. Schedule an orientation date with, Volunteer Coordinator (volunteer@shakerlakes.org or 216-231-5935 x 237).
5. Selected candidates from interviews will be invited to participate in a group orientation. **A parent or guardian must attend last 30 minutes of the orientation.**
6. Paper work must be completed prior to the start date of the Youth Stewardship Assistant, which will be distributed during the orientation.

Direct all inquiries to Volunteer Coordinator (volunteer@shakerlakes.org, 216-321-5935 x 237)

Facilities and Natural Resources Department Expectations for Youth Stewardship Program Volunteers

PARENTS- We expect a lot from the young adults in this program. It is rewarding for the Nature Center and our staff enjoys working with and mentoring the young people volunteering with us through the summer. If you are wondering if your teen is ready for this program, please review the following expectations.

Youth Stewardship Volunteers are expected to:

- Commit to the mission of the Nature Center to preserve the land, connect to nature and inspire stewardship.
- Commit to 10 working days (9:30 am to 1 pm) during the summer.
- Work independently and as a part of the Youth Stewardship Program team.
- Be prepared each day for the program by bringing necessary materials, dressing appropriately and following directed procedures.
- Be enthusiastic, friendly and open to new experiences and willing to work with Nature Center staff.
- Treat other Youth Stewardship Program participants and Nature Center staff with respect.
- Communicate clearly and professionally in person, on the phone and via email during the application process and during the summer. This is important if especially the student will be absent on a scheduled work day.
- Arrive and depart in a timely fashion without adult supervision.
- Accept feedback as a part of the learning process and strive to improve their performance.
- Under direction and training of Natural Resources Specialist, identify and pull invasive species on the Nature Center property. This may include cattails, purple loosestrife, iris, vinca and pacasandra.
- Pick up trash on property both in on-trail and off-trail locations on directed days.
- Assist with minor trail work by spreading trail mix on trails as needed.
- Failure to comply with the rules and procedures of the Nature Center or who fail to satisfactorily perform their volunteer assignment are subject to dismissal.