



ALBUQUERQUE BIOLOGICAL PARK

TINGLEY BEACH FISHING GUIDE

BIOPARK EDUCATION VOLUNTEER

JOB DESCRIPTION 2008

PURPOSE

Fishing Guides provide fishing instruction and information to visitors at Tingley Beach. They teach proper fishing techniques and etiquette, and they provide general information about Tingley Beach. Fishing Guides instill a sense of appreciation and respect for wildlife and the outdoors.

REQUIREMENTS

Anyone over 18 years old is eligible. Skills needed to be a successful Fishing Guide include enthusiasm, patience, dependability, an ability to speak informally to adults and children (both in groups and one-on-one) and to effectively communicate rules in a non-threatening manner, and a commitment to teaching about conservation. All required knowledge is taught. As a safety precaution, all applicants are required to submit to a City of Albuquerque security check before they can begin volunteering and an annual security check thereafter.

DUTIES

The duties of a Fishing Guide include greeting visitors to Tingley Beach, assisting novice fishermen, teaching about the fish in the ponds and their natural history, and giving tips on fishing etiquette. Fishing Guides are responsible for knowing current state fishing rules and regulations in addition to proper catch and release techniques. Fishing Guides may also conduct fishing clinics and special fishing classes.

MINIMUM TIME

Volunteers create their own schedule. Tingley Beach is open from dawn to dusk every day of the year, and Fishing Guides are welcome to work at any time during those hours. A regular weekly schedule is encouraged, but not required.

A minimum of 60 hours a year is required to receive recognition as a BioPark Education Volunteer. At least 30 hours of these must be spent directly working as a Fishing Guide; the remaining 30 hours may also be spent directly working as a Fishing Guide, or doing support work such as research, writing, attending monthly meetings, continuing education classes and Brown Bags, assisting with general BioPark projects, etc. Volunteers are responsible for tracking their own hours on an honor system.

If a Fishing Guide is active in another BioPark Education Volunteer program, the minimum number of required hours does not increase. The total of 60 hours may be divided between both or all jobs.

TRAINING

Fishing Guides attend a full-day training class. The class includes: learning basic to intermediate fishing skills, proper fish handling and catch and release techniques, fish ecology, and the New Mexico fishing rules and regulations. Finally, Fishing Guides take a written or oral assessment to demonstrate an understanding of the material. Training dates in 2008 are: Tuesday, May 22, and Friday, September 5.

UNIFORM

Fishing Guides wear a tan fishing vest, which will be provided by or can be borrowed from BioPark Education. Volunteers must also wear their BioPark ID and nametag. Volunteers are responsible for acquiring solid-colored clothing (blouse/shirt and pants/skirt/shorts) in uniform colors to wear with the vest. Uniform colors are black, brown, beige, tan or white. (Blue jeans are not considered appropriate). Comfortable shoes with a good tread are recommended.

BENEFITS

BioPark Education Volunteers have the opportunity to do meaningful and gratifying education work with thousands of visitors to the BioPark, an important intangible benefit. Tangible benefits are also available. Upon completion of the training and a commitment to give the minimum number of hours, Fishing Guides receive an identification badge, which allows free regular admission to all BioPark facilities (Zoo, Aquarium, and Botanic Garden). While on duty, volunteers receive a discount at the food and gift concession stands. After the end of each calendar year, volunteers are awarded recognition items for their service. Volunteers are offered discounts to all fee-based BioPark Education programs and are invited to special volunteer-only events.

SUPPORT

Resources exist throughout the BioPark to help volunteers fulfill their duties. Education staff can provide assistance, and small Education Libraries are available. Monthly education meetings are generally held on the first Thursday and first Saturday of each month, and all volunteers are encouraged to attend. The Zoo meetings are at 9:00am in the Zoo Education Barn, and the Aquarium/Botanic Garden meetings are at 11:00am in the AQ/BG Education Building. Current BioPark happenings and facility-specific information are discussed. Tingley Beach topics are covered at both meetings. Volunteers are also invited to attend monthly Brown Bag Seminars following the meetings. Mid-month, a written update is mailed to all BioPark volunteers. Information on current happenings is also available in the Volunteer Communication Room at the AQ/BG Education Building, or on the bulletin board in the Education Barn at the Zoo.

COSTS

BioPark Education Volunteers are responsible for acquiring their own uniform clothing.

STRUCTURE

Fishing Guides report to the Aquarium Education Coordinator, Dave Karmann (848-7172). Dave reports to the Acting BioPark Education Curator, Allyson Zahm. The AQ/BG Education Clerk, Kim Woodhouse, and the BioPark Program/Volunteer Specialist, Cathy Wylie, are also available to provide assistance.

HOW TO APPLY

Fill out the attached application and contract/release forms, and return to Albuquerque BioPark Education, Attn: Cathy Wylie, 903 Tenth Street SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102. Once your application is received, you will be asked to complete a separate background check form.

CONTACT

For more information, contact BioPark Education: (505) 764-6245, cwylie@cabq.gov, www.cabq.gov/biopark

The BioPark is a division of the City of Albuquerque's Cultural Services Department. For general inquiries, please call 311 (Relay NM, TTY 1-800-659-8331, or 711).



Martin J. Chávez, Mayor