Junior Naturalist Volunteer Application

What is a Junior Naturalist?

Junior Naturalists are volunteers that help our summer day camp team. They are leaders that make the camper's experience at Ney fun, exciting, and safe. Assisting with all aspects of camp including leading games, supervising campers during activities, and working with staff to ensure this is a fun and safe summer for everyone!

What are the requirements?

☐ Volunteers must be in 10th-12th grade as of May 2024.
☐ Must enjoy working with children, be willing to play, love the outdoors, and actively participate in camp activities.
☐ Be a responsible, trustworthy, and dependable volunteer. Be able to take direction, feedback, and follow through with assigned responsibilities while maintaining a mature, positive, service-oriented attitude.
☐ Complete an interview with Ney Staff, participate in mandatory training, and commit to volunteering for at least 1 week of camp.

What are the benefits?

Make new friends and connections through staff and fellow volunteers. Build leadership skills and gain valuable, fun, hands-on experience working with children and nature. Volunteer time is eligible for service learning credits and is great for resume building.

How do I apply?

Complete this form and return it to Ney Nature Center before the **deadline, May 1st, 2024**. You can do this (1) via email, info@neycenter.org, (2) in person, 28238 Nature Center Ln, Henderson, MN 56044 or (3) via mail, PO Box 93 Henderson, MN 56044. You will then receive an email that will notify you if you are or are not being invited to complete an interview.

Dates to put on your calendar:

☐ Application deadline - 05/01/2024
☐ Interviews - 05/04/2024 or 05/11/2024
☐ Mandatory training - 06/01/2024
Junior Naturalist Information

First Name: __________________________ Last Name: __________________________

Date of Birth: ___/___/____

Grade Level as of May 2024: ______ School Name: ____________________________

Address: ______________________________ City: ______________________________

State: _____ Zip Code: ________________

Primary phone number: __-__-_______ Secondary phone number: __-__-_______

We communicate with our volunteers primarily through e-mail. Please list the e-mail address you want us to use when communicating with you throughout this application process and throughout the summer. If you need us to send communications to both parent and student e-mail addresses, please list both.

Primary email address: __________________________

Belongs to: __________________________

Secondary email address: __________________________

Belongs to: __________________________

Please tell us a little more about yourself and your experience:

1. Do you have any previous volunteer or job experience? What did you do and where?

2. Do you have any experience working with younger children (babysitting, camp counselor, younger siblings, etc.)?
3. What skills, interests, and abilities would make you an asset to Ney’s day camp team?

4. Why do you want to be a Ney Nature Center Junior Naturalist?

**Availability**

How many weeks would you like to volunteer with Ney this summer (circle one):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp Week Theme</th>
<th>Dates (8:30am-4:30pm)</th>
<th>Camp Ages</th>
<th>Please check the weeks you are available &amp; interested:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time Travelers</td>
<td>June 10th-13th</td>
<td>12–14</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Explorers</td>
<td>June 17th-20th</td>
<td>9–11</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Critters</td>
<td>June 24th-27th</td>
<td>6–8</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pirates</td>
<td>June 24th-27th</td>
<td>9–11</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultimate Adventure</td>
<td>July 8th-11th</td>
<td>12–14</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinosaurs (half-day)</td>
<td>July 15th-18th</td>
<td>4–6</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Explorers</td>
<td>July 22nd-25th</td>
<td>9–11</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinosaurs (full-day)</td>
<td>July 29th-August 1st</td>
<td>6–8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Will you have consistent transportation to and from Ney Nature Center?

Our outdoor explorer camp & ultimate adventure camps have one day of camp that is located at Kerfoot Canopy Tour in Henderson. If transportation will be an issue for you on those days, please let us know so we can schedule you for camps that do not go to Kerfoot. Can you be dropped off at Kerfoot Canopy Park if you are scheduled for a camp that is held there?

Please provide any other information about your summer schedule that you think would be helpful to us.
Letter of Recommendation

The student listed below is applying for a Junior Naturalist volunteer position with Ney Nature Center, where they will be assisting with our summer day camp program. We are looking for youth who are mature enough to work with younger children, are dependable and have a positive attitude, but who are also fun and friendly. If you can provide a reference for this student, please complete this form and return it to the applicant or to the address or email listed above. (If you prefer to substitute a letter for this form, please be sure to address the questions listed below.) Thank you!

Name of applicant: ___________________________ Date: ______________

Name of reference: __________________________

Relationship to applicant: ____________________

Phone number: ___-____-______ Email: __________________________

How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?

Please share why you think this role would be a good fit for the applicant, related to characteristics such as dependability, maturity, and enthusiasm. If relevant, please consider sharing an example of a time the individual embodied those characteristics or other unique qualities. (use the back if necessary)

Please rate the individual from 1 - 5 in the following areas.

(1 - not related to applicant, 5 - core characteristic of applicant)

Dependability:  
Attitude:  

Follow-through:  
Flexibility:  

Initiative:  
People Skills:  

Enthusiasm:  
Maturity:  