

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):

1 2 3 4 5 6

Camp Week Theme	Dates (8:30am-4:30pm)	Camp Ages	Please check the weeks you are <u>available & interested</u> :
Time Travelers	June 10th-13th	12-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor Explorers	June 17th-20th	9-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creative Critters	June 24th-27th	6-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pirates	June 24th-27th	9-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ultimate Adventure	July 8th-11th	12-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dinosaurs (half-day)	July 15th-18th	4-6	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outdoor Explorers	July 22nd-25th	9-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dinosaurs (full-day)	July 29th-August 1st	6-8	<input type="checkbox"/>

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: