Welcome New Staff

Silverwood has been very lucky to have some amazing educators join us over the summer season. We want to thank them for their work! If you see any of these folks around the park, feel free to say, “Hello!” to them.

Tobias Gilbert (he/him) is a recent graduate of Macalester College where he studied Studio Art, with a focus in ceramics and woodworking, and Political Science. Outside of art he enjoys being outside in nature, cooking, and playing board games. His favorite animals are sea otters and stag beetles and his favorite authors are Terry Pratchett and Haruki Murakami.

Paula Suchy (she/her) is a naturalist from Mississippi Gateway joining Silverwood for one year. Paula has spent much of her time rafting on the Mississippi, teaching about the outdoors, and comes from a background of teaching early childhood education. She is bringing fresh perspectives on how to incorporate nature play and creative play into our preschool programming. Look for her at the Nature Play pop up programs over the next year alongside many other programs at the park.

Ciara Cagemoe (she/her) is a multidisciplinary artist based on the occupied indigenous land called Minneapolis, MN. She received her BFA in ceramic sculpture and printmaking from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in 2020. Ciara is interested in the cross section of speculative fiction and ecology, pleasure at the end of the world, and scrappy uncomfortable fairytales.
Program Assistant Opportunities

Field Trip
Saturday, September 16
11:30AM-4:30PM

Art Assistants (6-10 volunteers). Assist Silverwood staff and artists in engaging the public with art projects. Best for those who enjoy explaining instructions repeatedly and joyfully and like to be around children.

Greeters and Game Players (6-10 volunteers). Assist park guests with knowing where things are during the event and engaging guests with lawn games set up around the park.

Make and Mingle
Friday, September 22
6PM-9PM

Event Assistants (3-4 Volunteers). Assist with art-making, being friendly, and helping give folks information during our seasonal Make and Mingle Event. Best for those who enjoy working with adults and a laid back atmosphere. Must be 21+.

Free Family Fun Day: Puppet Art Adventures
Sundays, October 8, November 12
12:30PM-3PM

Art Assistants (2-4 Volunteers). Assist families and children with making art and learning about nature after a puppet show. Program runs from 1PM-3PM with a puppet show promptly at 1PM. This program will take place primarily outdoors as the weather permits and is best for folks who enjoy enthusiastically explaining instructions and are comfortable standing for most of the program.

Mini Pumpkin Decorating
Wednesday, October 18
5:30PM-8PM

Art Assistants (2-4 Volunteers). Assist families and children in creating silly or spooky mini pumpkin art-creations to celebrate the season! Best for those who like to get sticky or messy, can enthusiastically explain instructions, and enjoy family fun.

Silverwood Teen Night
Thursday, October 26
6PM-8PM

Adult Chaperones (2-4 Volunteers). Be a friendly adult helping make sure teenagers enjoying the Teen Night get what they need and are safe on a haunted trail outdoors. Best for adults who are able to hang back and let teens have fun.

Community Science Projects

In addition to Silverwood’s events, we have community science and monitoring projects that begin in late fall and run through the winter.

Project Feeder Watch (November through April) is an existing community science project that asks volunteers to collect information on the kinds of birds seen at a feeder for two consecutive days in a row each week. If you participate in this project, we would also ask you to re-fill the bird seed at Silverwood’s feeders each time you participate. Best for those who enjoy birds and birding, like to work independently or with a small group, and want to watch something other than Zoom meetings for a while. For more information on what this project looks like, feel free to visit the Project Feeder Watch Website.

Ice Monitoring on Silver Lake (November
Volunteer Opportunities

through April) is a project being initiated by Silverwood staff. We are attempting to collect general data on the amount of ice on the lake at any given time throughout the cold months as well as when Ice In and when Ice Out occur. We would ask participants to monitor thickness of ice and estimate percentage of ice cover on the lake throughout the winter months.

Stories in the Snow (November through April) is a community science project from the Desert Research Institute (DRI) in Nevada. This project uses an app called Citizen Science Tahoe to photograph and classify different kinds of snowflakes based on their crystal structure. This project requires a training session and would ask that you come to Silverwood to collect data at least twice.

Volunteer Docents

Become an art and nature docent at Silverwood Park’s gallery. We are searching for volunteers to be present in the gallery during busy weekend times, primarily Saturdays and Sundays from 1PM-3PM. Docents are meant to invite park guests to talk about and engage with the art in the gallery, relating it to the outdoors and environmental themes. Becoming a docent requires a group training with Silverwood staff. Then, docents work independently, signing up for shifts in small groups or on their own.

For more information contact Seth Eberle at seth.eberle@threeriversparks.org.

To volunteer for any of these opportunities, please call or email Seth Eberle at seth.eberle@threeriversparks.org or 612-508-6217. He will connect you with the staff person leading the program or project.