

Volunteer Opportunities

NOTE: Some of the volunteer opportunities listed below may require onboarding and a background check.

November 2021

District-wide Events

Nordic Opener

Volunteers: Need rental assistants, greeters, park patrollers, race assistants, lesson assistants, ski buddies and more

Date: Saturday, December 11, 6AM–4PM shifts

Location: Elm Creek Park Reserve Chalet

Contact: Becca Conser, Volunteer Resource Coordinator (rebecca.conser@threeriversparks.org)

Ski and Fat Bike Rennet

Volunteers: Need racer registration, greeters, start and finish line, racer food, water stops, park patrol (on ski, on bike, on foot)

Date: January 29, 6AM-9PM shifts

Location: Hyland Lake Park Reserve

Contact: Katie Brom, Volunteer Resource Coordinator (katherine.brom@threeriversparks.org)

Trail Mix Race

Date: April 16, 2022

Location: Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, Rockford

Contact: Becca Conser, Volunteer Resource Coordinator (rebecca.conser@threeriversparks.org)

Seasonal Positions

Three Rivers is Hiring!

Many Three Rivers facilities have seasonal positions available for the winter. Please help spread the word if you know of anyone who might be interested.

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/threeriverspd>

Hyland Lake Park Reserve

Contact: Pat Bixler (patrick.bixler@threeriversparks.org), Facility Coordinator for more information and scheduling.

Firepit Rings Supervisor

Hyland Lake Park needs volunteers to watch and supervise their firepit ring(s).

Timeframe: Shifts between 11AM-6PM on Saturdays and Sundays during the snow season. Options may be available later in the season for weeknights.

The Landing (Shakopee)

Contact: Zack Mohlis, Historical Interpreter, Outdoor Education (zachary.mohlis@threeriversparks.org)

Folkways of the Holidays

Description: Become a costumed tour guide for a visit inside a sampling of historic homes decorated for the holiday season.

Experience a variety of traditional mid-winter celebrations brought to Minnesota by 19th-century immigrants. Spin a dreidel, sing a carol or try your hand at fortune telling as you explore the story behind many familiar and some obscure holiday traditions still celebrated today.

Volunteer roles:

- 1 person to assist with keeping fires lit in the building stoves during tours
- 1+ program interpreters in historic costume to open additional buildings not highlighted on the tours
- 1+ building hosts (not costumed) to open additional buildings not highlighted on the tours

Volunteer Shifts: various throughout the month of December including weekdays and weekends.

Dates: December 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 28, 29

Mississippi Gateway

Contact: Ashley Smith, Interpretive Naturalist, Outdoor Education (ashley.smith@threeriversparks.org)

Park Ambassador

Entails going out into the park and engaging with the public, being available to answer general questions, and being a welcoming presence for our visitors.

Timeline: Hours are flexible between 8AM–8PM.

Story Rocks

We are looking for a volunteer who is interested in gluing and varnishing rocks with various nature pictures on them to be used for preschool programs. This should be a relatively quick project.

Outdoor Recreation School (ORS)

Contact: Heather Gordon, Recreation Program Specialist, Outdoor Education
(heather.gordon@threeriversparks.org)

The winter program signup process is now available. If you are interested in seeing the list of volunteer opportunities, please contact Heather.

Adapted Cross-Country Ski Club Training

The Adapted Cross-Country Ski Club runs Wednesday evenings in January and February, alternating between Elm Creek Park Reserve and Hyland Park Reserve ski trails. Volunteers are needed for this club to help with moving and setting up equipment, plus skiing alongside the participants who are using adapted ski equipment and/or techniques.

Training: for new volunteers on Sunday, December 19, 3:15-4:30PM following the Adapted Cross-Country Skiing Open House at Hyland Park Reserve.

Cross-Country Ski Volunteer Training

Volunteers: We are looking for XC skiers for beginner classic and skate lessons this winter. You do not need to be a great skier, but you should be comfortable on skis. Volunteers will assist with greeting participants and helping them get their ski rentals, helping participants get into their skis on the snow, being a cheerleader and overall moral support for the stragglers in the lesson. Not able to attend, but still interested in helping with ski programs? Send an email and we will work something out!

Date: December 7, time TBD (evening)

Location: Hyland Lake Park Reserve

Cross Country Ski Dryland Training Volunteers

Volunteers: We will share tips to be successful at cross-country skiing, serve as an ambassador of the sport, provide tips to individuals regarding proper pole use and act as a sweep or roving hiker for a Nordic pole hike.

Requirements and Training: Ability to hike three miles at a moderate pace with Nordic poles, and participate in body weight core, strength, and agility exercises.

Activity Level: Moderate to High intensity depending on participant goals.

Nordic Walking/Hiking Volunteers

Volunteers: We will be in a sweep or rover role, helping keep the group together while also chatting with participants and sharing knowledge about the parks.

Requirements and Training: No experience or advanced training needed, just a desire to socialize with participants and help them enjoy the beauty of the parks.

Activity Level: Easy to Moderate, depending on group fitness levels and program goals.

Ice Fishing Volunteers

Volunteers: Get involved with teaching youth and adults how to fish during the winter months.

Requirements and Training: We are looking for volunteers who have basic knowledge of fishing equipment, fishing knots and native fish species. You don't have to be an expert! There is no specific training, staff will get you up to speed at each program.

Activity Level: Easy to moderate, best for those who love the cold too!

Outdoor Recreation School (ORS)_continued

Contact: Heather Gordon, Recreation Program Specialist, Outdoor Education
(heather.gordon@threeriversparks.org)

Snowshoeing Volunteers

Explore the off-trail areas of our beautiful parks while assisting our staff with programs. Volunteers: are also very helpful in getting participants fitted in their snowshoes.

Requirements and Training: No previous experience required, just a desire to help folks enjoy the beauty of the parks in the winter! There is no specific training, staff will get you up to speed at each program.

Activity Level: Easy to moderate, staff will assign you to portions of the program with participants at an activity level similar to your preferred level.

Try it: Ice Fishing

Volunteers needed for greeting, checking out kicksleds and assisting with ice fishing. In 2020 we had 700 people come to this event that features lots of cool things related to ice fishing.

Date: Sunday, January 23rd, 1-5PM

Location: Silverwood Regional Park

Richardson Nature Center (Hyland Hills)

Contact: Kimi Aisawa Romportl, Interpretive Naturalist, Outdoor Education
(kimi.aisawaromportl@threeriversparks.org)

Free Family Fun Days

Volunteers: Every Sunday, naturalist staff will be outdoors providing visitors with a variety of outdoor activities and experiences. Each weekend will have a different theme. Assist with greeting visitors or with an outdoor activity.

Dates: Sundays, 12:30-3:30PM

Project FeederWatch

Volunteers: Join new, novice and expert bird watchers to identify and record birds at the feeders outside the backyard windows. Tally data for this national science project operated by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada (<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/>).

Dates: Starts November 18 & 19, every other Thursday & Friday, 9–11AM

Note: Please let us know if you will be joining FeederWatch to get updated information.

Nature Exploration Area Clean Up

Contact: Monica Rauchwarter, Interpretive Naturalist, Outdoor Education (monica.rauchwarter@threeriversparks.org)

As we have observed how popular the trails and Nature Exploration Area have become, we have also noticed that the exploration area could use a little more attention. Though staff keep an eye on things as best we can, we need support in moving building materials from the pond to the exploration area, tidying the mud kitchen (removing woodchips and mud from the sinks, etc.) and watching for hazards.

Silverwood Park (St. Anthony)

Contact: Seth Eberle, Silverwood Educator, Outdoor Education (seth.eberle@threeriversparks.org)

Art and Nature Docent

Engage with park guests with art gallery relating to outdoors and environmental themes.

Requires group training with Silverwood staff.

Timeline: Primarily Saturdays and Sundays, 1–3 PM

Make and Mingle Market

Volunteers: Event Assistants (2-3 Volunteers). Assist with art-making and fun holiday craft ideas. Best for those who enjoy working with adults in a laid-back atmosphere.

Date: Thursday, December 2, 5-8PM

Silverwood Park (St. Anthony) continued

Contact: Seth Eberle, Silverwood Educator, Outdoor Education (seth.eberle@threeriversparks.org)

Make and Mingle: Compass Rose

Volunteers: Event Assistants (2-3 Volunteers). Assist with art-making or other roles during our seasonal Make and Mingle Event. Best for those who enjoy working with adults and a laid-back atmosphere. Must be 21+

Date: Friday, December 17, 6-9PM

Puppet Adventures and Let's Get StARTed

Volunteers: Art Assistants (2-6 volunteers). Assist families and children with making art and learning about nature. This program will take place primarily outdoors and is best for folks who enjoy enthusiastically explaining instructions and are comfortable standing for most of the program.

Dates: Sunday, December 12, January 9, February 13, 12:30-3PM

Groundhog's Day Event

Volunteers: Art and Event Assistants (2-3 volunteers). Embrace the fun of cold weather on 2/2/22! Help families make art, participate in activities on a frozen lake, and enjoy the mid-point between winter and spring. Best for those who enjoy working with children and are comfortable being outdoors for long periods of time.

Date: Wednesday, February 2, 4-8PM

Project Feeder Watch

Volunteers: This 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 will also ask you to refill 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.

Timeline: November 2021 through April 2022

For more information on what this project looks like, feel free to visit the Project Feeder Watch Website

<https://feederwatch.org/>

Ice Monitoring on Silver Lake

Volunteers: This 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.

Timeline: November 2021 through April 2022

Stories in the Snow

Volunteers: This 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.

Requirements: This project requires a training session and would ask that you come to Silverwood to collect data at least twice.

Timeline: November 2021 through April 2022

Training session: To participate, you need to attend one of two different training sessions either on November 30 or December 8 from 6-7PM.

Natural Resources (various parks)

Contact: Angela Grill, Natural Resources, Wildlife Biologist (angela.grill@threeriversparks.org)

Monitors and Surveyors

Volunteers: Bluebird Monitors and Frog/Toad Surveyors

Contact Angela for further information.

Research (various parks & trails)

Contact: Jon Nauman, Planning, Sr. Manager of Research and Evaluation (jon.nauman@threeiversparks.org) Text: 612.309.6149

Winter Count 2021-2022

Two-hour winter observation counts along with data from automated counters will provide Three Rivers with its most comprehensive estimate of winter visitation patterns. With over 700 two-hour counts to choose from, most everyone can find a count location, day, and time that fits into their personal schedule. Provides an opportunity to help Three Rivers while seeing park locations you may not have previously visited. Though only one counter is needed for most two-hour shifts, our busiest ski locations have opportunities for multiple people to count together. It's difficult to accurately count the busier sites with just one person. There are some opportunities for two people at the same location. Counts can be started up to 30 minutes prior or after the scheduled time but the count must be for an entire two hours no matter when the count begins.

Community Events (location varies)

Contact: Kara Harwood, Guest Services and Community Engagement, 763-559-6717 (kara.harwood@threeiversparks.org) Share your enthusiasm for the outdoors and Three Rivers Park District in the community! Help build awareness of our parks and regional trails system, answer questions from event visitors, or assist with a nature activity. Work alongside staff as we engage with people in places outside of our park locations and in their neighborhoods.

Thank you,

Volunteer Resources Office

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Katie Brom, Volunteer Resources Coordinator

Becca Conser, Volunteer Resources Coordinator

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