



Summer 2021 Youth Stewardship Assistant

For the well-being of all volunteers, interns and employees, the Nature Center has established and will adhere to distancing & personal hygiene protocols to reduce the risk of exposure to Covid-19.

Description

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes seeks **Youth Stewardship Assistants** to assist our land management staff with natural-area projects during the summer. These volunteer assistants are a very important part of our stewardship program.

Responsibilities include:

- Pulling invasive plants
- Trail maintenance
- Trash collection
- Learning about plants and ecology

Qualifications

Youth Stewardship volunteers are expected to participate actively in all land management tasks. Training and guidance in native plants, management techniques and trail maintenance will be provided.

A successful candidate:

- Will be enthusiastic, motivated, and reliable,
- Will be able to lift 20 pounds
- Will possess a willingness to work in all weather conditions,
- **Must be at least 14 years old**

Minimum Time Commitment

Volunteers are asked for a minimum of 10 days. The days do not need to be consecutive. Participants can schedule dates Tuesday through Thursday each week.

Important Dates

2021 Summer Program Dates: June 15 - August 5, 2021 from 9:30 am-1 pm

Group Orientations: Wednesday, May 26th 5:30-7:00p or Friday, June 11th 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Location: 2600 South Park Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44120

Supervision: Reports to Natural Resources Specialist or Volunteer Coordinator

To Apply:

- 1) Complete an application.
 - a. **Returning Volunteers**, please complete the online interest form here: <https://form.jotform.com/210215218673954>
 - b. **New Applicants**, please complete the [online application](https://shakerlakes.org/volunteer-application/) found on the Nature Center's website. (<https://shakerlakes.org/volunteer-application/>)
- 2) Ask two personal or professional references to fill out the [online reference form](http://shakerlakes.org/volunteer/youth.php). (<http://shakerlakes.org/volunteer/youth.php>)

Please direct all inquiries to Volunteer Coordinator: volunteer@shakerlakes.org, 216-321-5935 x237



Facilities and Natural Resources Department Expectations for Youth Stewardship Program Volunteers

PARENTS- We expect a lot from the young adults in this program. It is rewarding for the Nature Center and our staff enjoys working with and mentoring the young people volunteering with us through the summer. If you are wondering if your teen is ready for this program, please review the following expectations.

Youth Stewardship Volunteers are expected to:

- Commit to the mission of the Nature Center to preserve the land, connect to nature and inspire stewardship.
- Commit to 10 working days (9:30 am to 1 pm) during the summer.
- Work independently and as a part of the Youth Stewardship Program team.
- Be prepared each day for the program by bringing necessary materials, dressing appropriately and following directed procedures.
- Be enthusiastic, friendly and open to new experiences and willing to work with Nature Center staff.
- Treat other Youth Stewardship Program participants and Nature Center staff with respect.
- Assist in maintaining a safe and healthy environment
- Communicate clearly and professionally in person, on the phone and via email during the application process and during the summer. This is important if especially the student will be absent on a scheduled work day.
- Arrive and depart in a timely fashion without adult supervision.
- Accept feedback as a part of the learning process and strive to improve their performance.
- Under direction and training of Natural Resources Specialist, identify and pull invasive species on the Nature Center property. This may include cattails, purple loosestrife, iris, vinca and pacasandra.
- Pick up trash on property both in on-trail and off-trail locations on directed days.
- Assist with minor trail work by spreading trail mix on trails as needed.
- Failure to comply with the rules and procedures of the Nature Center or who fail to satisfactorily perform their volunteer assignment are subject to dismissal.