

Yes! Please send me more information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone _____ Evening phone _____

Mail to: River Bend Nature Center
PO Box 186
Faribault, MN 55021

OR CALL: 507-332-7151

OR E-MAIL: rbncinfo@rbnc.org



Volunteering with RIVER BEND NATURE CENTER



*"Never doubt that a small group
of thoughtful, committed citizens
can change the world. Indeed, it's
the only thing that ever has."*

- Margaret Mead



WHAT IS RIVER BEND NATURE CENTER?

River Bend Nature Center is an independent, membership supported, nonprofit organization. Supported by the surrounding communities, River Bend serves these communities and aspires to be a vital asset to the region and its people.

Our mission is to help people discover, enjoy, understand and preserve the incredible natural world that surrounds us. We do this by providing natural history, environmental education, and outdoor recreation opportunities both on- and off-site for people of all ages and abilities from Faribault, Northfield, Owatonna, and the surrounding communities.

River Bend Nature Center is situated on over 700 acres along the Straight River. The site contains an impressive variety of habitats (prairie, hardwood forest, wetlands) and is home to numerous animals and plants.

Central to our success are the people of the community who serve as volunteers, provide funding, and offer leadership



WHO VOLUNTEERS WITH RIVER BEND?

Volunteers come to River Bend Nature Center with a variety of ages, interests, skills, and desires. From families with young children to service groups to seniors, we welcome the opportunity to work with a broad base of people dedicated to helping us pursue our mission.

Whether you have a few hours a week, some extra time on weekends, or an interest in coming occasionally during the year, we have volunteer opportunities to meet your time commitments and interests.

Volunteering with River Bend is a rewarding experience that benefits not only the environment and our visitors, but enriches the lives of our volunteers. We hope you will become part of our family.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The following describes many of the volunteer opportunities that we have at River Bend. If you have other interests, ideas, or special skills that you would like to share with us, please let us know. We will work together to develop a project that is meaningful and mutually beneficial.

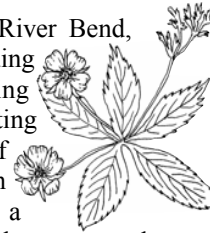
VOLUNTEER NATURALIST



Over 14,000 elementary students visit the center each year. These visits provide students with a unique field experience taught by both staff and trained volunteers. A desire to learn more about nature and a willingness to share your enthusiasm and knowledge with students is all that is needed to be a volunteer naturalist. Prior experience is not necessary since training is provided. Many volunteer naturalists spend three hours each week during the program season assisting with classes and attending the Friday morning training sessions.

OFFICE VOLUNTEER

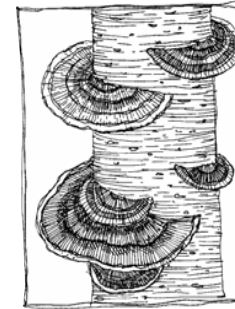
Many hands are needed to operate River Bend, especially when it comes to folding letters, preparing mailings, labeling envelopes, answering phones, greeting visitors, and staffing the gift shop. If you have time during the day, we can use your assistance. About once a month, office volunteers come together to work on



Black Swallowtail Caterpillar

WEEKEND BUILDING VOLUNTEER

River Bend's regular staff work throughout the week and we sometimes need help to keep the Interpretive Center open on the weekends. Hours are Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are trained in greeting visitors, answering phones and taking care of gift shop sales.

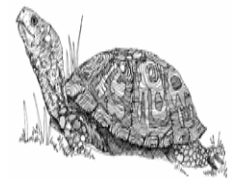


MAINTENANCE

With over 700 acres and several buildings, help is always welcomed to keep things looking good for visitors. Maybe you could help us maintain trails, put up wood for maple syruping, do some cleaning, or help with repairs. If you have woodworking skills we may need help with special projects. Sometimes we just need a helping hand with a special task. Work days are occasionally scheduled for large projects.

GROUP SERVICE PROJECTS

If your scout group, service club, or other type of organization is looking for a meaningful service project, please give us a call. We may have projects in mind that would fit with your goals, or we can work together to develop a project that would meet both of our needs.



SPECIAL EVENTS

River Bend holds several special events each year with many opportunities for volunteers. Set up, food preparation and selling, parking, gift shop, leading walks, and helping with clean-up are some of the areas where we need assistance.