

Volunteer Ranger Program

Volunteer Ranger (Visitor Services) Role Description

Position Title: Volunteer Ranger (Visitor Services)

Purpose and Background:

The National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia are managed by the Department for Environment and Water (the Department) for the enjoyment of South Australians and the preservation of their natural and cultural values for future generations. Rangers are a trusted source of information for visitors to South Australia's parks and play a valuable role in managing our parks, conserving biodiversity and ensuring a safe and memorable visitor experience.

The South Australian Volunteer Ranger Program provides an opportunity for South Australians with a passion for the environment to get involved in activities to help engage park visitors to navigate, access and enjoy our SA reserves. Becoming a Volunteer Ranger is a great way to share your knowledge, training and experience with park visitors, whilst gaining relevant knowledge and skills too. You will be volunteering with a group of likeminded people to deliver interpretive walks and activities on the local biodiversity, and providing practical information to create a safe and memorable visitor experience. This is an excellent opportunity to make a difference by enhancing the knowledge of others and helping to create a lifelong connection to nature.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia is looking for volunteers who have a keen interest in nature, who enjoy sharing their knowledge with others and are able to educate visitors on the values of the park. This will include providing visitors with information and facilitating guided walks and activities.

Key responsibilities and Tasks

Volunteer rangers will deliver a series of visitor services to better engage park visitors in SA Reserves which includes the following:

- Facilitate interpretive walks and activities which engage in storytelling to highlight the park's flora, fauna and any other features of interest
- Rove around park major visitor sites and walking trails
- Keep interpretive activities to scheduled times
- Provide an acknowledgement of Country at the beginning of interpretive activities
- Provide friendly, social interaction with park visitors
- Provide safety and directional information to park visitors on arrival or as required- facilities location and access, trail suitability, closing times, parking, directions, park highlights etc.
- Support visitor safety and communicate with parks staff and visitors, any hazards/risks following the appropriate WHS procedures and policies
- Notify on-duty rangers of disturbances or breaches of park regulations, ensuring to record these events
- Provide assistance to keep the park clean and tidy for visitors
- Provide support for visitors with special access needs to navigate through SA Reserves

Key skills and Qualifications

- A passion for the environment, conservation and connecting people to nature
- Good public speaking skills and a willingness to speak to large groups and other park visitors
- Be engaging, informative and present information in a friendly and open manner
- Be able to use initiative and work with minimal supervision
- Be physically fit with the ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills with the ability to engage with a diverse range of people from different backgrounds
- A positive and professional attitude, being responsive to the needs and interests of visitors
- A connection and knowledge of the park and/ or ecological processes is desirable
- A current First Aid Certificate (*Provide First Aid* or higher)

Other Requirements

Volunteers will be required to undergo a Working With Children Check (which includes a National Police Clearance Check) before commencing volunteer duties. This will be at no cost to you.

Volunteers will be required to make their own way (either by car or public transportation) to the park and have their own mobile phone.

Volunteers must work within the *Volunteer Ranger Guidelines* whilst carrying out their duties.

Program Benefits

As a volunteer ranger you will receive training and an induction to successfully undertake the role. This training will provide you with valuable knowledge and skills, especially in presentation and environmental interpretation for your personal development; and also for those willing to pursue a career in the environment or other professional sectors.

Whilst volunteering, you will have the opportunity to network with a friendly team of likeminded people, learn and apply new skills within in a park management context and get a glimpse of the "behind the scenes" management of SA reserves.

You will be able to share your passion and knowledge about the environment with visitors and other volunteers; allowing others to access, learn and experience SA reserves. You will also gain extensive knowledge of the relevant park and get to work in some of the most beautiful and special places in South Australia.

For placements out of the metropolitan area, free accommodation (or campground facilities) will be provided. Food and all other expenses will be covered by volunteers.

Training

All Volunteer Rangers must attend a compulsory 2 day training and induction program provided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia, which will include an onsite induction within the park. This ensures volunteers have the appropriate knowledge and skills to safely provide engaging visitor services to the public.

Location

There are currently volunteer ranger opportunities during peak visitation holiday periods within the following parks:

- Morialta Conservation Park
- Innes National Park

Volunteer rangers will be informed of additional volunteer opportunities as these become available. Volunteer Rangers will be allocated volunteer placements based on their suitability for the role and any particular skills or qualifications that are required.

Commitment

- Volunteers are expected to assist on weekends, public holidays, school holidays and other busy times
- Volunteers will need to complete the 2 day training and induction course before volunteering
- Volunteers will need to make themselves available for a minimum number of shifts (refer to the site specific information provided online)
- Volunteers are expected to complete a minimum of 75 hours (10 days) volunteer time within a 12 month period

Uniform

The department will provide an official volunteer uniform comprising of a shirt, pants, jacket, hat and any other required PPE. Volunteers need to wear their own enclosed shoes or boots suitable for outdoor conditions and wet weather gear. Volunteers are required to wear this uniform, PPE and be neatly presented whilst undertaking the role. Please note you will required to walk on uneven and hard terrain.

Supervision

Volunteer rangers will be required to work with at least one other person whilst conducting volunteer activities for safety reasons. Support and supervision will be provided by the local ranger on duty whilst working within the park as required.

The Volunteer Ranger Program Coordinator is available for all other matters relating to the Volunteer Ranger Program.

For more information

Volunteer Ranger Program Coordinator

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South Australia



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South Australia