



Volunteer Description: Hike Guide

Title: Guided Hike Volunteer. Must be 18 years or older.

Location: Se7en Wetlands Park, 500 West Carter Road, Mulberry, FL 33860

Supervisor: Environmental Program Specialist

Time commitment: 2.5 to 3-hour monthly guided hike during peak seasons (subject to change)

Background Information:

The City of Lakeland's Se7en Wetlands has been in operation for more than thirty years receiving ALL of the City's treated wastewater for 'final polishing' before it is released downstream to the Alafia River or used at the Tampa Electric Polk Power Plant. In 2018, Se7en Wetlands was open to the public with the first phases bringing more than 8.5 miles of added hiking trails and connections between Polk County's Loyce Harpe Park to the northwest and Lakeland Highlands Scrub to the northeast. Future phases will bring even more miles of trails.

Hike Guide Description:

Hike Guides are responsible for safely leading guided hikes through Se7en Wetlands on marked trails. All volunteers should respectfully assist visitors with directions or park questions as needed. The ideal candidate will have knowledge of specific Hike content (i.e. local birds, ecology, photography, etc.) and educate visitors in a fun and engaging way.

Knowledge/Skills/Desired qualifications:

- Previous experience as a nature hike guide or environmental educator
- Ability to interact with the general public in a respectful and courteous manner
- Comfortable working in an outdoor setting around various wildlife including alligators
- Ability to problem solve and work independently
- Knowledge of various plants and animal species in Florida, local history, and ecology
- Excellent oral communication skills
- Ability to be flexible when working with youth, adults, and large groups

Benefits:

- Individuals will work closely with a group of dedicated staff and volunteers to make a meaningful impact to Se7en Wetlands and the greater Community
- Access to Se7en Wetlands trails not yet open to the public
- Gain experience with public speaking and personal interactions
- Get exercise and be in nature

Recommended Equipment & Materials (these will not be provided to you):

- Weather-appropriate clothing; hat/sunglasses, sunscreen, water bottles, close-toed shoes, etc.
- Cell phone with fully charged battery in case of emergency
- A small, portable, cooler with a water bottle and food/snacks
- Optional: Camera and binoculars

Individuals filling this position(s) may be subjected to background investigations through state and local law enforcement agencies.

THANK YOU!