



**Share the  
Enthusiasm!**



**Volunteer Docent  
and First Guides  
Training  
2025**

**Nearer to Nature**  
[www.nhnature.org](http://www.nhnature.org)

***“What are docents and  
First Guides?”***

Docents and First Guides are volunteers trained to educate visitors about New Hampshire ecology. They may be seen on the Exhibit Trail with biofacts, answering visitors’ questions, engaging in conversation, and enhancing visitors’ experiences. Docents are 18 years and older. First Guides are teens between 14 and 17 years old.



Opportunities are available for docents and First Guides to participate year-round. In addition to spending time on the trail, docents may engage in the following activities. After their first year, they may train to demonstrate live animals.



**Discovery Tables**

Docents represent the Science Center at local events with Discovery Tables to demonstrate biofacts and provide information.



**Mentors**



Docents may assist docent and First Guide trainees as they practice their skills with live animals and biofacts.

**River Otter Feeding**

Visitors enjoy learning about otters and have fun watching otter enrichment— docent-led presentations that include feeding otters treats such as fish frozen in ice. This opportunity is available for docents and First Guides.



## Outreach Assistant

Docents often demonstrate animals or props while assisting staff naturalists at off site presentations.



## Special Events

Docents and First Guides join in the fun at special events, such as New Hampshire Day,



displaying biofacts, leading games, crafts, and other activities

## Trail Tour Guide

Docents are a welcoming and informative guide for scheduled group tours on the exhibit trail.



**Opportunities for National Interpreters Association Certified Interpretive Guide trained docents.**

## Turtle Talks: Just for Kid

A live turtle accompanies this docent presentation scheduled weekly



during the summer. Docents and First Guides may assist the presentations.

## Up Close To Animals



Trained docents present half-hour talks to visitors in our amphitheater with an animal during July and August.

## Requirements

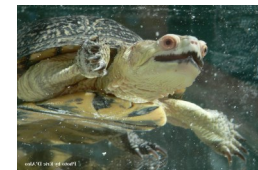
Trainees are required to complete 40 hours of training during their first year, including 20 hours of training sessions (see below). Docents must be at least 18 years old and teen First Guides between 14 and 17. No previous experience is required.

## 2025 Training Schedule

To register for training, contact the Volunteer Manager below. The five-day course is scheduled:

- **June 19 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.**
- **June 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**
- **June 24 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.**
- **June 26 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.**
- **June 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

A one-time \$50 fee includes a shirt and all materials. Contact the Volunteer Manager for scholarship information.



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