

Who are the Docents?



Docents 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 old.

Opportunities are available for docents 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.

Requirements and Fee

Docent Trainees commit to 40 hours of training during their first year, including 20 hours of training sessions (see below). Docents must be at least 18 years old.

No previous experience is required.

The cost of the First Guides program is \$50. This is a one-time fee that includes a shirt and all materials. Contact the Volunteer Manager for scholarship information.

2026 Training Schedule

To register for training, contact the Volunteer Manager below. The training schedule is:

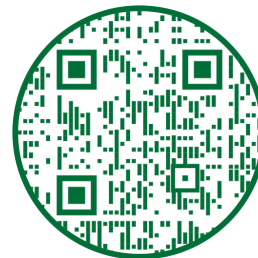
June 25, 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

June 27, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

June 28, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

June 30, 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit us at nhnature.org or scan the QR Code.



Docent

VOLUNTEER TRAINING



Share your love of Nature!

Squam Lakes Natural Science Center
PO Box 173, Holderness, NH 03245

Carol Raymond, Volunteer Manager
Phone: 603-968-7194 ext. 122
carol.raymond@nhnature.org

NEARER TO NATURE
nhnature.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Discovery Tables

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



Mentors

Docents mentors are trained to assist docent and teen junior docent 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.



Outreach Assistant

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



Special Events

Docents join in the fun at special events, such as New Hampshire Day, displaying biofacts, and 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 Kids

A live turtle accompanies this docent presentation scheduled weekly during the summer. Docents may assist the presentations.



Up Close to Animals Talks

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