



Job Title: Docent

IslandWood Overview:

IslandWood was founded in 1999 to advance innovative and inclusive education that leads to greater environmental health, a sustainable future, and social and ecological wellbeing for all. Our place-based, experiential learning programs offered on our 250-acre campus on Bainbridge Island, in Seattle neighborhoods, and at the King County Brightwater Center in Woodinville serve more than 10,000 students every year. We deepen our impact by co-developing science curriculum for Seattle Public Schools, providing teacher training, offering a master's level graduate program in education, and through advocacy and community partnerships. We aim to be a resource and gathering space for community-building and education, offering summer day camps, free and low-cost community programs, and conferences and retreat services for non-profits and corporations.

Job Summary:

Docents are essential to sharing this work with the public by providing thoughtful educational experiences to visiting event groups, special guests, and members of the community on our Bainbridge campus. Docent-led programs include: Forest and Tree House Hike, Canopy Tower Hike, Bird Habitat Hike, Sustainable Design Tour, Mission and Program Tour, and Campus Tour. Docents also support community programs, such as Afternoon on the Trails and Mushroom Mania.

Docents are members of a professional learning community, developing and sharing expertise, collaborating and mentoring.

Status: Volunteer

Reports to: Volunteer Programs Coordinator and Community Education Manager

Training:

- Complete initial training in natural and cultural history of Puget Sound; sustainable design; the practice of interpretation; IslandWood mission and programs.
 - Attend six-session docent class.
 - Shadow a minimum of two hikes/tours led by more experienced docents.
 - Complete a minimum of one mentored hike/tour with a staff member.
- Engage in continuing education.
 - Attend a minimum of three monthly docent meetings, or the equivalent professional development, per year.
 - Attend optional community hikes and special events.
 - Read IslandWood resources and conduct individual research in natural and cultural history, education, and sustainable design as needed.
- Pursue optional special proficiency (with additional training provided by IslandWood) in sustainable design and birds. In addition to leading the Sustainable Design Tour and Bird Habitat Hike, subject experts will support fellow docents in these areas.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Lead hikes and tours of IslandWood campus to event clients and special guests.
- Support community programs by providing natural interpretation, greeting guests, etc.
- Ensure the wellbeing of visitors by practicing IslandWood safety protocols.
- Take part in other volunteer activities as desired (e.g., garden, land stewardship, etc.)
- Serve as an IslandWood ambassador, sharing knowledge of IslandWood mission and programs with the community.

Requirements:

- Enthusiasm for and commitment to IslandWood's mission.
- Interest in environmental stewardship and natural history.
- Friendly and professional communication, interpersonal skills, and customer service skills.
- Desire to participate in a professional learning community.
- Commitment to support IslandWood's work towards equity, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace and in our programs.
- Demonstrate IslandWood's core values that enable teams and individuals to succeed with shared respect and purpose.
- Demonstrated experience working effectively in partnership with a broad range of individuals and constituencies of diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Sufficient computer skills to receive and reply to email and use an online system for signing up to volunteer and reporting hours.
- Comfortable working in an outdoor setting.
- Ability to walk two miles and stand for extended periods of time.
- Must pass child safety screening.
- Must comply with and maintain a smoke-free and drug-free workplace.

Time Commitment:

- After the first year, volunteer a minimum of 20 hours annually by leading and/or sweeping hikes and tours and supporting community programs. (This total does not include monthly meeting attendance or other professional development.)
- Attend three monthly meetings per year (totaling 6 hours) or the equivalent professional development.

Benefits:

- Docent badge and gate code allowing access to campus.
- Opportunity to provide private tours to family and friends (based on campus availability).
- Use of IslandWood library.
- 20% discount at IslandWood gift shop.
- 20% discount for IslandWood summer camps (for children or grandchildren only).
- Annual volunteer celebration.
- Year-end thank you gift.
- Invitation to IslandWood staff party.
- Opportunities to learn about Puget Sound's cultural and natural history, public speaking, sustainable architecture, art, artists and craftspeople, and education.

IslandWood is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications from qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, marital status, amnesty, or status as a covered veteran in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws. We encourage diverse applicants because we believe having staff and volunteers that authentically reflect the community we serve is critical to our ability to be culturally responsive.