



Ohio Nature Education

4782 Riley Road
Johnstown, Ohio 43031
Ph (740) 967-8320
Fax (740) 967-8320
E-Mail info@ohionature.org
Web www.ohionature.org

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Ohio Nature Education (ONE). ONE is a private, non-profit organization that was founded in 1997 by Manon Van Schoyck. Manon holds state and federal permits from the Division of Wildlife and the US Fish & Wildlife Service that allows us to use live animals, animal specimens, nests and other nature-related materials in our programs.

ONE's mission is to teach people of all ages about native Ohio wildlife in the hopes that those with whom we come in contact will become conservationists. We hope that you will join us in working towards this goal.

ONE's Mission Statement: We are committed to creating an awareness of and appreciation for Ohio's natural habitat and wildlife by offering informative and entertaining education opportunities to people of all ages. Our hope is to instill in each person a sense of conservation and stewardship for our natural world.

Since we are still a relatively young organization, we have many opportunities for volunteers. Our main goal, and one that we ask our volunteers to keep in mind, is to promote ONE to the public and to inform the public of our work. Obtaining new customers generates more funds, and this allows us to add education animals and increase our program supplies.

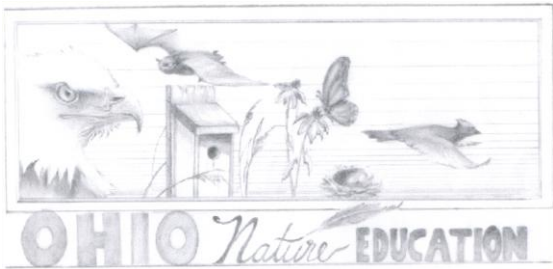
We understand that volunteers are drawn to us for the opportunity to work with our education animals. **However, it is our philosophy that working directly with the animals is a reward that has been earned because of a demonstrated commitment to assist us in other areas, as well as evidence of ability to work with wild animals.**

There are many areas in which your help may be needed. For example, we need assistance with cage building, cage cleaning and animal feeding. We welcome people who are interested in contacting area businesses and asking for donations of items such as dog food, building supplies and other products. We need people to tend displays, send thank you notes to donors, fold newsletters and assist us at fundraising events. Each of these volunteer activities is equally as important to ONE's success as is conducting education programs.

The opportunity to conduct education programs for ONE is a privilege and is very rewarding. It's also a lot of hard work. We place volunteers in a mentorship program where they work with experienced program speakers. During this mentorship, they learn natural history facts, how to deal with audiences of all ages, and how to handle our education animals. The amount of time that a volunteer spends in the mentorship program depends upon the person's knowledge of natural history and the number of programs the person attends. Obviously, the more programs the person attends, the more quickly the person will be able to strike out on his or her own. We try to keep in mind that everyone has different comfort levels and different areas of expertise. For example, some people prefer speaking to adults while others prefer speaking to kids. We will give you an opportunity to speak to the age groups and on the topics that you feel most comfortable with. We realize also that some speakers are uncomfortable handling animals, and we place these speakers in our programs that don't require handling the animals. In fact, in many cases, the animals remain in their display cages throughout the program.

No matter what your level of education, your career, your background or your interests, you have something important to offer ONE, and we welcome you. No experience is necessary. We will train you.

We hope that you will join us in our mission!



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Volunteer Interest Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Fax: _____

_____ E-Mail: _____

Employer: _____ Occupation: _____

Please place an "I" for interest and/or an "E" for experience next to each area in which you wish to participate.

Programs:

_____ Speaker _____ Designer
 _____ Adult Programs _____ Children's Programs

Programs of Interest:

_____ Birds _____ Bats _____ Nocturnal Animals
 _____ Reptiles _____ Insects _____ Spiders
 _____ Trees _____ Birthday Parties
 _____ Other (please specify) _____

Activities:

_____ Cage Cleaning _____ Newsletter _____ Adopt an Animal
 _____ Animal Care _____ Cage Building _____ Cage Design

Membership:

_____ Recruit/Organize Volunteers _____ Interest in Being a Board Member

Fund-Raising/Public Relations:

_____ Develop and Maintain Media Contacts _____ Write Press Releases
 _____ Develop Fund Raising Events _____ Assist at Fund Raising Events
 _____ Solicit Donations _____ Research and Grant Writing

Administrative:

_____ Mailings

Special Skills/Interests:

_____ Accounting/Bookkeeping _____ Legal Matters
 _____ Computer Skills
 _____ Other: _____

Please return the completed form to the address above. Thank you for volunteering with ONE!