

Vegetation

Introduction

The work involves vegetation inventory, seed collection, cutting collection, plant collection, seeding, planting, transplanting, watering nursery plants, plant identification, invasive plant species removal, and public education through visitor interactions.

The term of service will start 2/15/2024 and end on 10/31/2024. The volunteer is not expected to work a minimum amount of hours per week, but when volunteering, must commit to volunteering a minimum of 1 hour per day.

The volunteer will be working with NPS employees under the Science and Resource Management division. The Volunteer Supervisor will be Ashton Bedford, who will oversee supervising and training the volunteer, as well as answering any questions they may have about the position.

Major Duties

In outdoor settings, work includes:

- Collecting native plant seed and cuttings.
- Interpreting and communicating vegetation issues of concern or interest to park staff, visitors and residents.
- Installing and re-reading vegetation transects; installing and re-taking permanent photo points.
- Collecting plant specimens for identification and adding to the herbarium collection.

In addition to the list above, developed area work may also include:

- Propagating native plants from seed or cutting in a nursery or outdoor setting.
- Transplanting and moving up native plants in the nursery.
- Assisting in nursery facility maintenance including potting, watering, fertilizing, weeding, repairs, construction, and record keeping.

In addition, work in both areas may require:

- Driving personal vehicles to work site if necessary and approved by volunteer supervisor.

Knowledge and Skills Required

The knowledge, skills and abilities for each project may vary, but the basic requirements are:

- Ability to work independently with little or no supervision and as part of a team for extended periods of time.
- Ability to maintain a positive attitude in a group setting for extended periods of time.
- Willingness to learn different duties related to operating a nursery.
- Ability to follow directions.

Knowledge and Skills Sought for Certain Positions

While the following knowledge is not required, it will be highly sought after for certain volunteer positions:

- Intermediate to advanced botanical and taxonomic skills including the ability to identify flora in Grand Canyon National Park.
- Experience in the installation of vegetation transects.
- Experience in Horticultural techniques.
- Ability to use hand tools and power tools safely and to perform hard, physical labor for up to 10 hours each day.
- Skilled in use of GPS units and digital cameras or ability to learn new technology.
- Ability to read a topographic map and use a compass; skilled in hiking and orienteering (if in remote backcountry settings).
- Knowledge of southwestern forest and desert environments.
- Basic knowledge of restoration ecology and invasive species management.

Safety Considerations

- Driving personal vehicle.
- Driving on icy roads.
- Walking on icy surfaces.
- Hand tool use
- Wildlife interactions
- Environmental hazards such as extreme cold and heat
- Standing dead trees in nursery yard and risk of branches falling

Required Training or Certifications

Valid Driver's License. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Use of Personal Equipment

Per Director's Order 7 Volunteer-in-Parks 6.4, when the Grand Canyon National Park accepts a volunteer's offer to use his/her own personal property or equipment for official purposes, and that property is lost, damaged, or destroyed, the VIP may be reimbursed for the loss or a depreciated portion of the loss, subject to the rules and conditions of the agency's personal property claim program detailed in the Department of the Interior Departmental Manual, 451 DM 3. A statement that the VIP offers to provide and use such equipment as part of his/her official duties must be included on Optional Form 301a. Moreover, the form must specifically identify and describe the personal property being used. This must be discussed verbally with volunteers and included in their service description.

Authority for this reimbursement is Federal Employee Status for Volunteers (16USC 558 (c)), and the Grand Canyon National Park may reimburse up to \$2,500.00 total for volunteer supplied equipment required for this assignment accidentally damaged or lost incidental to performing the duties in this job description. The reimbursement limit shall apply, per incident, and even if the claimed loss exceeds that amount. Claims must be filed using US Department of Interior

Form DI-570. The list can be a separate document to allow for a better description and this document must be provided to the park, with a copy to the volunteer:

- Serial number
- Description of any damage and repair or replacement estimates
- Ensure functionality
- Photos and/or video of the equipment being used to document any existing damage

Reimbursements

The only reimbursement authorized is for the use of personal property used to perform volunteer duties. Incidental expenses.

Benefits

None provided

Physical Demands

Moderate to high physical effort is required. All work is carried out at high elevations (4600-8200' elevation.) Most duties will require being in the sun for extended amounts of time. Some duties require sitting, standing, or walking for extended periods of time. Some duties may also require strenuous physical activity such as lifting and carrying heavy items over terrain that is sometimes rugged, precipitous, and unstable. Volunteers must be able to perform manual labor for up to 10 hours per day in an outdoor environment where inclement weather is possible. Work may require lifting and carrying moderately heavy items (up to 50 pounds), bending, hiking, and stooping for long periods.

Work Environment

Nearly all work will be conducted along the Grand Canyon south rim and in the nursery. Work will either be in a developed nursery setting or in an outdoor setting along the south rim of the Grand Canyon. Sometimes outdoor work will require the volunteer to be near the rim in unguarded locations. Occasionally outdoor work will bring the volunteer to the north rim or into the canyon. The volunteer may be exposed to irritants such as plants, dead brush, and insect bites and may be working near herbicide. There is a possibility of field work taking place on an overnight river trip, or hiking into the canyon on day trips.

Duty Station

This position is duty stationed at the Village. If work is required outside the Village and requires overnight at a temporary duty station, the volunteer will be put in the National Park Service travel program so the volunteer will receive a per diem and lodging (if needed).

Location

There is a market and multiple restaurants inside and around the park. However, the market is limited and expensive. The nearest town that has multiple grocery and retail stores is Flagstaff, AZ which is 90 miles away from the park. Northern Arizona has a unique climate depending on the time of year, it can be snowing or over 100 degrees. Please pack many layers because even

if it is hot during the day, temperatures can reach freezing at night. Northern Arizona is also very dry and high altitude, prepare yourself for that type of environment and living at 7,000 ft.