



My Nature Lab
1100 Pine Street, Unit B
Louisville, CO, 80027

Youth Volunteer Position Description

Please apply by filling out the application form found at mynaturelab.org/careeropportunities under the header “Youth Volunteer”. Application submission does **not** guarantee a volunteer position. Applicants must also complete a successful interview at My Nature Lab after application acceptance.

Position Description:

Our Youth Volunteer program is a fantastic opportunity for high school students aged 14-17 to learn more about reptiles and amphibians and what it takes to run a conservation-based education program. At My Nature Lab, you will be immersed in all aspects of running the lab, from animal care and husbandry, to education and general administration. Our purpose is to help foster a deeper love of the natural world while at the same time offering high schoolers the opportunity to gain hands-on experience working with and around animals.

Youth volunteers at My Nature Lab are responsible for assisting with all aspects of the lab. Tasks are grouped into three categories:

- **Animal Husbandry:** husbandry tasks include observing and monitoring the animals, assisting with feeding, and cleaning tanks, water bowls, and travel tubs. Additional tasks will be introduced on a week to week basis per the needs of our animal care specialist.
- **Education:** education based tasks include shadowing and assisting in programs, helping to prep for programs (cutting out craft materials, helping setting up the classroom, checking kids in for class), and assisting in our Open Lab setting.
- **General Administration:** general admin tasks include checking guests in at the front desk, selling memberships, prepping for fundraisers and big events, keeping Open Lab clean (sweeping, cleaning bathrooms, mopping) and assisting with any additional as needed tasks according to our outreach education specialist.

Each week, volunteers are assigned to a category and must complete the tasks under their given category to the best of their ability. Each volunteer must assist with all three categories over the course of their time volunteering at My Nature Lab. Flexibility and willingness to take on a variety of tasks is required of our volunteers due to the ever-evolving nature of the Lab.

Supervisor:

Volunteers at My Nature Lab are primarily supervised by the volunteer coordinator, Lindsay Buckhout. Volunteers may also be supervised by any of the My Nature Lab full-time staff: Cameron Young (founder and director), Becca McGeary (education director), Margaret Wolf (outreach education specialist), or Jackson Prosser (animal care specialist and educator).

Fees:

Volunteers at My Nature Lab are required to pay a \$25 fee per quarter, which covers the cost of an official t-shirt as well as fees for orientation and training. Alternatively, volunteers may purchase a \$75 individual membership, which includes unlimited visits to Open Lab outside of volunteer hours. If this fee is a barrier for application, we do offer merit-based volunteer positions as well. While the merit-based position does not include any additional access to the lab outside of scheduled volunteer hours, we do not want fees to be an issue barring any applications.

Commitment Requirements:

Completion of volunteer hours takes place at My Nature Lab in Louisville, Colorado. Youth volunteers at My Nature Lab are required to volunteer for a minimum of two hours per week for the total duration of the designated quarter. There are two available time slots for youth volunteers: a weekday afternoon time slot, and a weekend time slot.

- Spring volunteer session: March 1st, 2024 - May 31st, 2024
- Summer volunteer session: June 1st, 2024 - August 31st, 2024
- Fall volunteer session: September 1st, 2024 - November 30th, 2024
- Winter volunteer session: December 1st, 2023 - February 28th, 2025

Prior to each session, volunteers are required to attend a Welcome Event at the lab, during which the fees or membership costs will be paid, a volunteer t-shirt will be provided (1 per year, with extra shirts available for purchase), and an orientation session will be completed. This event is designed to get future volunteers more familiar with the lab and their fellow volunteers, as well as introducing you to the tasks that will be completed during your time volunteering. This is also a chance to meet the staff and the animals! Upon acceptance of your volunteer application, the dates and times of the Welcome Event will be provided, determined by the availability of other volunteers and the availability of My Nature Lab staff. On the last Saturday of the quarter, we will provide pizza and animal time as a way to thank our volunteers for all of their hard work.

An application review period for the next volunteer session will commence immediately following the start date of the current session. The application review period will close one week prior to the start of the upcoming quarter. For those who want to volunteer for more than one session, priority will be given to current volunteers with positive reviews on the quarter.

Qualifications:

- Must be aged 14-17
- Responsible
- Strong work ethic
- Positive attitude
- Willingness to learn
- Flexibility

Benefits:

Volunteers at My Nature Lab will receive an official volunteer t-shirt. Additionally, volunteering at My Nature Lab is a fantastic opportunity for high school students to gain hands-on experience working with and around live animals. Coupled with our unique mix of educational opportunities, My Nature Lab will assist youth participants in expanding their resumes and growing their skills in a wide variety of categories.