

Los Flores Ranch Open Space – Docent Mission and Goals

Mission:

- Preserve land of the Los Flores Ranch as a regional open space park that protects the natural and cultural resources and sensitive lands, and provides compatible recreational opportunities that do not damage sensitive lands.
- Provide an accessible preserved open space with walking, equestrian, and bicycle trails, recreational and education opportunities

Activities:

Research, Education, Recycling, Enforcement, Advocacy, Policy, Conservation, Tourism, Recreation, Restoration, Regulation, Oak Woodland Monitoring and Resource Management

Topic:

Wetlands, Wildlife, Watersheds/Hydrology, Habitat Restoration, Endangered Species, Water Quality/Storm Water Runoff, Oak Woodland Habitats

Educational Resources:

Activity/Learning Kit, Maps, Outreach Programs, On-Site Programs, Guided Walks, Field Trips, Nature Trails, Publications, Newsletter, Brochures, Guidebooks, Exhibits/Displays, Website, Library/Lending Materials, Speaker/Lecture Series

Education Programs:

- Quarterly Activity Schedule
- Volunteer Patrol Training
- Teachers' Activity Kit for K-12 "Outdoor and Knowledge School" (OAKS) and children's interpretive Trail
- Newsletter
- Videotapes
- Animal Tracking Class - Open to public
- Hikes provide education on Native Americans, wildlife, habitat, history of Santa Maria and the regional area, etc.
- Speakers Bureau - Presentations to area organizations

Target Audiences:

K-12, Adult, Teacher, Non-Formal Educator, General Public

Volunteer Opportunities

Program:

Volunteer Patrols, Docents, Trail Maintenance/Habitat Rehabilitation

Description:

1. Volunteer Patrols - Assist Rangers with tracking the number of users; identifying trail problems; serving as park presence to deter crime; meeting, greeting and answering questions for the public
2. Docents - Lead hikes, mountain bike and equestrian rides, picnic in the park education programs, slideshow and lecture series, animal tracking class, etc.
3. Trail Maintenance/Habitat Rehabilitation - Trimming vegetation, compacting soil, moving and removing rocks, installing fences, trash cleanup, mule fat planting, invasive weed removal, care and watering of native plant nursery, etc.

When Needed:

Ongoing, short-term opportunities available as well

Qualifications:

Must have professional conduct and complete the training. Rangers provide instruction for weekend projects.

Commitment Required:

Volunteer Patrol - A four hour shift, two times a month

Docent - Lead at least one to two activities

Trail Maintenance/Habitat Rehabilitation - Two times a month for four hours per quarter

Application/Training:

Volunteer Patrol - An eight hour training followed by a CPR/First Aid course

Docent - Eight consecutive Saturdays covering a variety of topics