

DES PLAINES VALLEY COUNCIL - SERVICE HOUR OPPORTUNITIES

rev. #7 = 040511

UPDATES: Information for updating this list should be sent to
servicehours.scouts@gmail.com.

OUTDOOR SERVICE PROJECTS: Many (not all) forest preserve projects involve clearing invasive brush. Some need permission slips or liability waivers, and some require advance notice if you are bringing a group. Some work is at a location in the interior of the woods, so be sure you know exactly how and where to locate the group.

As to any forest preserve service work:

- > Dress appropriately. Wear layers as appropriate. Do not wear shorts for forest preserve projects (poison ivy, mosquitos, thorns, cuts, ticks, stinging nettle).
- > Bring and use work gloves. Wear boots. Sandals, flip-flops, and open-toed shoes are never appropriate footwear for outdoor work such as forest preserve projects.
- > Stick with your buddy or the group.
- > When the sun may be strong, bring sun screen.
- > Bring rain gear if appropriate.
- > Bring water to drink. There are various belt-hangers and shoulder strap holders for water bottles so you don't have to carry your bottle in hand.
- > Don't litter. Take out more trash than you came in with.
- > During the bug season, bring and use bug repellent.
- > Ticks: Be prepared for ticks by becoming familiar with the local types, how to avoid them, how to check for them, and how to remove them.

==> In particular, learn what the black-legged tick (deer tick) looks like, it's *very* small size, how to avoid them, how to check for them, how to remove them, and the various symptoms of Lyme disease. The population of the black-legged tick is substantial, and the ticks in northeastern Illinois up through Wisconsin are infected with the Lyme disease bacteria. Please consult www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme/ and www.idph.state.il.us/public/hb/hblyme.htm. (This is important information for camping purposes as well.)

- > When working outdoors, be safe and have fun!

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ANIMAL CARE LEAGUE

Area: Oak Park

Type: Animal care

Go to: www.animalcareleague.org

Click SUPPORTING THE ACL, then click VOLUNTEER

BEDS PLUS

Area: LaGrange

Type: Food, shelter and support for homeless people

Go to: www.bedsonline.org Click on VOLUNTEER (note the “Student Volunteers” option).

CATNAP FROM THE HEART

Area: LaGrange Park

Type: Animal Care

Go to: <http://catnapfromtheheart.org> Click VOLUNTEER. Phone 708/352-3914.

Note: A training session is required. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old.

CHICAGOLAND ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

Area: Entire DPVC area

Type: Natural area restoration and more

Go to: www.chicagoenvironment.org Click VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES - - at bottom of that page, select your counties and activities of choice.

Note: This searchable website is a great resource. ←

CHICAGO PORTAGE (FRIENDS OF THE CHICAGO PORTAGE)

Area: Lyons

Type: Natural area restoration

Go to: www.chicagoportage.org Click FRIENDS, then click WORKDAYS

Notes: A historical site. There may be an end-of-year bonfire, which would make for an unusual workday and a good December outdoor activity.

CONSERVATION FOUNDATION / THE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Area: DuPage County and neighboring areas.

Type: River cleanups, and more.

Go to: www.theconservationfoundation.org Click GET INVOLVED, then click VOLUNTEER.

Additional contacts: etuttle@theconservationfoundation.org 630/428-4500

Note: On the VOLUNTEER page, both the “Education” and the “Volunteer” sections have opportunities for Scout activities.

Note: The STEWARDSHIP GROUP links will lead you to more service hour opportunities available through other, related organizations.

COOK COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

Area: Cook County

Type: Natural area restoration and more

Go to: www.fpdcc.org/calendar

Note: Searchable by activity, location - very useful. ←

DES PLAINES RIVER CANOE MARATHON

Area: Des Plaines River.

Type: Assisting with the event in the spring.

Go to: www.canoemarathon.com

DES PLAINES RIVER VALLEY RESTORATION PROJECT

Area: From DesPlaines to Hodgkins, along Salt Creek and the Des Plaines River.

Type: Natural area restoration

Go to: www.restoringnature.org for workday schedules, map and directions to restoration sites.

DUPAGE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

(Also DuPage Volunteer Stewardship Group)

Area: DuPage County

Type: Natural area restoration, native plant nursery and more; groups of 5 or more are supposed to register 2 weeks in advance 630/933-7681.

☛ FUN!! Also Scout-related fun activities such as beginning archery lessons, geocaching, fishing lessons, canoe rental, snowshoeing and much more. Also some Eagle Scout projects are available from time to time; at times they have been limited to DuPage County residents [call].

Go to: www.dupageforest.com

On home page, click CALENDAR OF EVENTS for many Scout-related fun activities and some service hour opportunities. Note the “Sort By...” function, so you can specify “Nature Workday” or “Outdoor Recreation”.

On home page, click NATURE WORKDAYS (currently in the right-hand menu). For the liability waiver and other information, click on “Get Involved”, then click on “Volunteer”. Notes: Fullersburg has a nature center and Graue Mill as well as a forest preserve. The native plant nursery is on the north edge of Blackwell Forest Preserve. Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve encircles Argonne National Laboratory, which - by advance arrangement - offers tours suitable for older Boy Scouts and for Venturers. This website includes a map of the various DuPage County forest preserves.

FRIENDS OF THE CHICAGO RIVER

Area: Chicago

Type: River restoration

Go to: <http://chicagoriver.org>

Notes: Offers opportunities for both work and fun. Note CHICAGO RIVER DAY in the spring, involving a river cleanup, invasive plant removal, planting native plants, and more.

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST PRESERVES

Area: Cook County

Type: Natural area restoration and more

Go to: <http://fotfp.org> > click ENJOY NOW Or Click GET INVOLVED

Note: May find forest preserve restoration workdays and some recreational activities.

>>>====> GIVING DUPAGE <====<<<

Area: DuPage County

Type: Searchable resource for connecting volunteers and groups with volunteer opportunities.

Go to: EITHER www.dupageco.org/givingdupage/ OR www.givingdupage.org

Click on VOLUNTEER or YOUTH VOLUNTEERING or FAMILY VOLUNTEERING

MORTON ARBORETUM

Area: DuPage County/Lisle

Type: Outside work activities may include tasks like mulching and weeding.

CALL for information on workdays 630/968-0074, ask for Volunteer Services. Note that the workdays are primarily in spring and summer, with only occasional workdays in fall.

Morton Arboretum offers educational and recreational activities, including some Scout activities, and for them, go to: www.mortonarb.org

> Click EDUCATION, then:

Click YOUTH AND SCOUT GROUPS for educational activities, merit badges and geocaching.

Click SCIENCE CAMP for K-6th grade activity.

Click CHILDREN AND FAMILY CLASSES for activities for age 2-14 years old.

> Click CALENDAR for fun activities.

NATURE CONSERVANCY - - VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP NETWORK

Area: Entire DPVC area

Type: Natural area restoration and more

Go to: <http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/illinois/volunteer/art9844.html>

Click VOLUNTEER

Note: This is a website of The Nature Conservancy, which is a huge science-based conservation and environmental group.

PALOS RESTORATION PROJECT

Area: The Palos area of the Cook County forest preserves [roughly Hodgkins to Orland Park, west to the county line].

Type: Natural area restoration

Go to: <http://home.comcast.net/~palosrestor/> Click on the oak leaf next to WORKDAY SCHEDULE. The schedule information includes contacts and directions to sites.

Note: Hidden Pond in the Palos area is different from Hidden Lake just north of Morton Arboretum - see the DuPage County forest preserve information on this list for Hidden Lake.

SCARCE (School & Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education)

Area: 799 Roosevelt Road, Building No. 3, Suite 5, Glen Ellyn 630/545-9710

Type: Hands-on recycling and reclamation projects such as reclaiming old books, crayons and holiday lights.

Go to: scarcecoed.org Click GET INVOLVED, then click VOLUNTEER

Also email ecoed@sbcglobal.net

RAY GRAHAM ASSOCIATION

Area: Hinsdale area

Type: Assistance for disabled people

Go to: www.ray_graham.org or 630/620-2222 (speak to Volunteer Coordinator)

Note: The main volunteering opportunity (not the only one) is at their horsemanship center behind (south of) Hinsdale Central High School. Variety of work, e.g., riding lesson assistance, barn maintenance, assisting with sports activities and service dogs. Eagle Scout Leadership Projects may be available from time to time.

WEST SUBURBAN HUMANE SOCIETY

Area: Downers Grove

Type: Animal care

Go to: www.wshs-dg.org Click HOW YOU CAN HELP, then click VOLUNTEER

WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER

(DuPage County Forest Preserve District)

Area: Glen Ellyn

Type: Rehabilitation of injured wildlife

Go to: www.willowbrookwildlife.org Click either REHABILITATION or EDUCATION, then click on HOW YOU CAN HELP for description of volunteer positions.

Note: This is an educational facility with programs, as well as a rehab center. Consider planning an outing there in conjunction with one of their scheduled programs.

Note: Although there are various types of volunteer positions, the official positions are not suitable for one-day activities. However, contact them about your interests to see what can be developed. Contact: 630/942-6200 or email at willowbrook@dupageforest.com.

WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE

Area: Westchester

Type: Natural area restoration

Go to: www.savetheprairiesociety.org