



GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT

Position Description

KAYAK / CANOE RESCUE VOLUNTEER

Department: Naturalist

Supervisor: Naturalist / Volunteer Coordinator

SUMMARY:

Kayak and canoe volunteers assist with park kayak and canoe programs and are required to be trained by Geauga Park District Staff in boating rescue techniques. Boating programs take place on local lakes and rivers. Volunteers have the option to be trained in kayaks and canoes, or only one of the two.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES: Areas of responsibility include, but are not limited to, the following.

General

Geauga Park District provides all equipment including boats, life jackets, paddles and rescue equipment. Volunteers are welcome to bring their own equipment to the program, but this is not a requirement.

All volunteers must be able to:

- Effectively paddle a kayak and/or canoe
- Enter and exit boats unassisted
- Assist others entering and exiting boats
- Unload and load boats from trailers and storage racks
- Move boats from the trailer or storage area to the water and vice versa
- Become trained in kayak and/or canoe rescue every two years

TRAINING & SUPPORT:

Every two year, volunteers must complete the water rescue training for kayaks and/or canoes, which are offered annually in May or June and conducted by the Geauga Park District staff. Becoming trained in only one type of boat does not count towards the other type of boat (i.e. training in kayak rescue will not fulfill the requirements to volunteer for canoe programs). If volunteers are unable to attend the training, they will not be eligible to assist in boating programs that year. **Due to the inherent danger of boating, staff reserves the right to deny volunteers the opportunity to assist with boating programs if the volunteer cannot complete all key responsibilities satisfactorily.**

QUALIFICATIONS & COMMITMENT:

Volunteers are urged to volunteer for more than one boating program annually. Because only trained volunteers are eligible to assist with boating programs, all trained volunteers will be contacted if there are unfilled shifts. Contact will be through email or phone, and may be last minute in the case of a volunteer cancellation.

IMPACT & OUTCOME:

Geauga Park District offers a number of opportunities for the public to safely explore our waterways. Due to the inherent risk of boating, naturalist-led boating programs cannot be hosted by only one qualified leader. Without volunteer assistance, the Park District would have to increase the number of staff working each boating program, and could thus offer fewer programs overall. We truly appreciate our kayak and canoe volunteers, their dedication to extra training and physically demanding programs, and their willingness to help us offer such special opportunities to the public!

5/2024