

Information Sheet

What is a Trail Ambassador?

Trail Ambassadors are park docents who aid and educate park visitors with anything from directions to safety needs to park history, flora, fauna and geology.

What do Trail Ambassadors do?

- 1) Interact with and provide assistance to park users.
- 2) Staff information tables at volunteer days and events.
- 3) Lead tours in the Wissahickon Valley (starting in second season).
- 4) Conduct surveys of park users and wildlife.

What are the benefits?

- 1) Become an expert of the Wissahickon!
- 2) Enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that your time is helping others and the Wissahickon Valley.
- 3) Connect with other lovers of the park
- 4) Participate in ongoing education about the Valley through workshops, programs, and field trips.
- 5) Receive Ambassador uniform/gear: hat, shirt, back pack, & first aid equipment
- 6) Become First Aid/CPR certified.
- 7) Be recognized at FOW's annual volunteer evening.
- 8) Have the opportunity to become a volunteer leader
- 9) Receive 50% off at Valley Green Inn snack bar.

How do I become an Ambassador?

- 1) Have experience with and a love for the outdoors.
- 2) Be committed to park rules and have a strong interest in assisting and educating park users.
- 3) Have a working e-mail address.
- 4) Fill out application form at <http://www.fow.org/volunteering/trail-ambassadors> and send to contact at bottom of page. Electronic or hand written versions are both acceptable.
- 5) Participate in interview.
- 6) If accepted, pay one-time registration fee of \$100.
- 7) Sign the one-time volunteer release form.
- 8) Obtain your child abuse history and criminal background check forms and submit copies to FOW.
- 9) Attend all of the training classes, not missing more than 2 classes during your training cycle.

What are the requirements once I become an Ambassador?

- 1) Perform an average of **at least two 3-hour shifts per month (Apr thru Oct)**. Winter shifts are optional.
- 2) Perform **at least 2 shifts annually at event information table**.
- 3) **Attend monthly check-in sessions** for ongoing education and to communicate your experience in the park to others. **Held on the third Thursday evening of every month.**
- 4) Maintain **current membership** with FOW
- 5) Maintain **current First Aid/CPR certification**.
- 6) Participate in **periodic performance evaluations**

Ambassador Education 8-Week Training Program

History

Watershed

Current Projects

Wildlife

Geology

Rules and Regulations

Customer Service and Outreach

Program Logistics

First Aid/CPR certification

Ongoing education

Ongoing education in topics above and others is available at monthly meetings and other training opportunities. Other topics include plant identification, sustainable trails, park safety and storm water management. Ambassadors can delve deeply into their own particular topic(s) of interest!

For more information contact Sarah Marley, FOW Outreach Manager

Friends of the Wissahickon
8708 Germantown Ave
Philadelphia PA 19118
www.fow.org

phone: 215.247.0417 ext. 109
fax: 215.247.9329
email: marley@fow.org